

Blow for Gorbachov on summit eve

Russian joy at Yeltsin's day of victory

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIANS waving their red, white and blue national flag danced for joy in Red Square last night when Mr Boris Yeltsin swept to power as President of the Russian Federation, three years after being consigned to political oblivion by President Gorbachov.

The news broke just after Mr Gorbachov left for his four-day summit with President Bush.

Mr Yeltsin, leader of the Democratic Russia parliamentary group, vowed to work with Mr Gorbachov on a "businesslike" basis. But his programme for Russian sovereignty and radical economic reform puts him on a collision course with the Soviet leader and deals a devastating blow to the Communist Party apparatus that tried to block his rise.

The new president immediately began talks with Communists and smaller groups to form a coalition government. He was later given a tumultuous reception at a Moscow stadium, where he told ecstatic supporters he would restore normality "so that the word Russia will sound as it once sounded before".

Mr Yeltsin was elected with 535 votes, four more than the 531 he needed. In earlier rounds on Friday and Saturday, he gained 497 and 503 votes. Deputies said the Communists had miscalculated by dropping their hard-line candidate, Mr Ivan Polozkov, in favour of Mr Aleksandr Vlasov, Prime Minister of the

Russian Federation, who had been dropped for his "weak" performance on the market economy issue. Mr Vlasov received 467 votes.

Mr Gorbachov made a last effort to block Mr Yeltsin by meeting Communist deputies on Monday night, but reportedly realized that a Yeltsin victory was inevitable and agreed to a compromise under which Mr Yeltsin would be president with a conservative prime minister.

Mr Yeltsin was given a deafening standing ovation as he strode to the podium yesterday. He condemned recently-announced price rises, saying they had not been thought through, and placed "the whole burden on the shoulders of the people. Independence and sovereignty for Russia are not just aims, but belong to the people," he declared. He would spare neither health nor time "to get Russia out of this crisis". As he left, Mr Yeltsin was besieged with people weeping and kissing his hands.

Democratic Russia has about a third of the MPs in the Russian Parliament elected this spring and Mr Yeltsin yesterday ordered a 36-hour recess for coalition negotiations. Mr Yuri Prokofiev, head of the Communist Party in Moscow, said the Communists would work with parties that supported "the socialist choice", but not with anti-Communist parties.

Because the presidency of the Russian Federation is a new post, nobody knows precisely what Mr Yeltsin's relationship will be with his government or with the central Soviet Government. Among the proposals the new Russian parliament has to discuss is a law revising the Treaty of Union, which is intended to clarify the "sovereign" status of the Russian Federation and its relations with the 14 other Soviet republics. Mr Yeltsin said yesterday that would be among his top priorities.

Mr Yeltsin's triumph returns to power leaves Mr Gorbachov with the prospect of having to grapple with a rapidly disintegrating Soviet Union and an economic reform programme in real danger of collapse. The Supreme Soviet yesterday ended three days of debate on the planned market economy, with Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, saying it would be "extremely dangerous" to abandon the plan.

Reformers attacked the plan as too timid, and Mr Anatoly Denisov from Leningrad said: "We have managed to wreck socialism, now it looks as if we're going to wreck capitalism as well." Mr Ryzhkov retorted that price rises were unpopular but were a necessary part of a market economy. "We must not fool ourselves or the people," he said. Radical deputies proposed a no-confidence vote, which was defeated by 312 votes to 44.

Mr Yeltsin's victory gives him a power base from which he might eventually challenge Mr Gorbachov to lead the Soviet Union. But if he pursues his vision of a "sovereign" Russia with its own domestic and foreign policies, there might not be a Soviet Union for him to lead.

Yesterday supporters of both Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gorbachov were emphasizing the need for the two men to work together, but it is difficult to see how a clash can be avoided. Mr Yeltsin's programme includes a radical transition to the market economy, with the planned price rises delayed until the system has been overhauled, land reform, private enterprise, a referendum on nuclear power, and even Russian negotiations with Japan on the Kurile islands.

Mr Yeltsin and many of his followers are still formally members of the Communist Party, but a split at the party congress in July is increasingly likely and a debate is in progress over whether reformist Communists should stay and transform the party from within or abandon it.

Many believe Mr Yeltsin and an independent Russia, with its population of 145 million, will form an alliance with an increasingly independent Ukraine to oppose the Gorbachov economic reforms, thus dooming them to failure in their present form.

The rise of Mr Yeltsin begins to make the reforming Mr Gorbachov seem like a man left behind by events; a man in danger of being identified with the dying old order rather than the new. "Gorbachov has got behind the curve," one diplomat using a surfing analogy said yesterday. "Yeltsin has to prove himself now he has high office. But at the moment he is riding the wave."

Survival lesson, page 9
Taming the reformer, page 10

Confidence-boosting welcome in Canada

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN OTTAWA

LOOKING tired and preoccupied, President Gorbachov arrived here yesterday for a brief state visit to Canada before travelling on to Washington for his summit with President Bush. He and his wife Raisa were greeted by Mr Ramon Nhatshyn, the Canadian Governor-General, who is of Ukrainian descent, and Mr Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister.

The formal welcoming ceremony at Uplands military airport incorporated a guard of honour by the red-jacketed Royal Canadian Regiment and a 21-gun salute. This is Mr Gorbachov's second visit to

Canada but his first as Soviet leader. He headed a Soviet delegation in 1983, when he was responsible for agriculture and impressed Canadians with his open and questioning approach.

The visit was in question until the last moment because of the multiplicity of problems in the Soviet Union. Soviet officials were said to have advised, however, that cancellation would give an impression of Mr Gorbachov's weakness.

Angry welcome, page 8
Winning esteem, page 10
Leading article, page 11

Still swinging together, 550 school years on

By PHILIP HOWARD

Twenty years hence this weather May tempt us from office stools: We may be slow on the feather, And seem to the boys old fools. But we'll still swing together, And swear by the best of schools.

THE weather at Eton last night was jolly brooding rather than jolly boating, as recommended in the haunting school song by William ("They told me Heraclitus") Cory OE. But it did not deter more than 6,000 Old Etonians and companions from returning, at £62.50 a head, to celebrate the 550th anniversary of the foundation of their old coll. by Henry VI.

Champagne, socking in the street, and hay harvest breeze blew thinning hair about, so that some of the OEs looked as though they had been eaten and brought up rather than brought up at Eton. As

George Orwell OE remarked on a similar occasion: drop a bomb here, and you would wreck all chance of fascism in England for a generation.

They celebrated traditionally with evensong in College Chapel, relayed by television and video to the overflow in Upper School, School Hall, and Lower Chapel. (If any school solves what is meant by "technology" in the national curriculum, it will, inevitably, be Eton.)

And then the procession of boats and fireworks, with which Etonians have been greeting the Fourth of June for more than two centuries. Like many Etonian institutions, these were originally unofficial, and even illicit. On a previous such occasion, the King (William IV) asked the famous flogging Head Master (Dr Keate) whether he was not coming to watch the procession of boats. Dr Keate excused himself majestically,

on the score that "he did not know there was such a thing".

The Fourth of June fireworks and nocturnal procession of boats were discontinued 20 years ago because of vandalism by champagne charlies. Drunken OE frogmen capsize two of the boats. But the traditions were brought back last night, with the boys dressed in the uniforms of officers in Nelson's navy, standing, wobbling, up in their boats, holding their oars vertically, and shaking the roses from their straw hats into the river, to be carried symbolically downstream, like fleeting youth, alas. As part of the junketing, the College has pushed the boat out by building another Monarch, to replace Eton's unique ten-oared boat, propelled ineptly by top, not necessarily wet-bob boys. In the past generation, Eton

Continued on page 22, col 3

Labour plan for divorcees to divide up pension assets

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS under which divorcing couples would divide between them pension assets built up during their marriage are to be studied by the Labour leadership.

The plan is designed to give a better deal to the thousands of women who lose their right to their husband's personal or occupational pensions on divorce. The plan would also benefit men in cases where the wife is the pension contributor.

Mr Michael Meacher, shadow social security secretary, has proposed in a paper circulated to members of the Shadow Cabinet that, when they marry, husbands and wives should automatically register a 50 per cent interest in their total pension assets.

On divorce, the assets would be valued and halved, and each would later be paid a pension based on those assets in addition to any others they had built up by themselves. Cohabiting couples would have a similar right but they would have to request it.

Mr Meacher said that the scheme would save the taxpayer money because fewer pensioners would have to rely on means-tested benefits. He is to press his leadership colleagues for a commitment to early legislation by the next Labour government.

However, the plan was not contained in the party's manifesto blueprint published last week and will not be voted upon at this year's conference. Mr Meacher will press for it to be included in a later policy statement. If approved, the leadership would then have to decide whether it should be a manifesto commitment.

In his paper, Mr Meacher says that Britain is the "divorce capital of Europe" but, unlike many of its European

counterparts, fails to protect the pension rights of divorcees. He says: "No partnership other than marriage could be dissolved on such an inequitable basis. A woman's contribution to a marriage is no less to be valued than a man's, whatever the financial circumstances. Yet a couple's pension rights, usually their most valuable possession, property acquired, often pass exclusively to the husband as the person who directly made the contributions."

Mr Meacher says that the law generally regards pension contributions and pension benefits as belonging to the contributor, even if the contributions and pension rights attaching to them are intended to provide an income for a couple in retirement or for the survivor in the event of the contributor's death.

The approach fails to recognize marriage and cohabitation as a partnership, or the spouse's contribution in caring for the children, the home, their partner or relatives, or that the spouse's ability to acquire independent rights might have been impaired by decisions the couple had made together.

Mr Meacher proposes legislation to require pension schemes to register the 50 per cent interest of husbands and wives where the scheme member is married and to vary their terms and conditions to facilitate pension splitting without incurring the loss of the fund's tax advantages. The schemes would also keep both partners informed about the performance of the fund. Once the pension assets are split both members will become equal and independent members of the scheme.

Practical problems, page 2



Red Square triumph: Mr Boris Yeltsin waves in jubilation after his election success

Brooke 'close to talks'

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MR PETER Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is expected to explain publicly within weeks his proposals for inter-party talks in Northern Ireland.

Official sources in Belfast said yesterday that Mr Brooke will give details of his plan either in a Commons statement or in a speech in Northern Ireland. He is expected to announce both when and where talks will be held and to disclose the timing of a "natural gap" between meetings of the Anglo-Irish Conference, to enable the talking to begin.

It was also made clear that the acceptance by Unionist leaders of a role for Dublin in the negotiations will be balanced by talks between them and Dublin on Articles Two and Three of the Irish Constitution, which lay claim to the territory of Northern Ireland and on the difficult question of extradition of IRA suspects from the Republic.

Despite the improved atmosphere surrounding Mr Brooke's efforts to encourage talks on a devolved government for Ulster, considerable obstacles remain.

Some observers believe the key sticking point to be securing agreement on exactly how Dublin should become involved in the negotiating process envisaged by Mr Brooke.

Widow tells of IRA 'nightmare'

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM AND DAVID SAPPSTED

A POLICE operation involving Dutch, British, Belgian and West German anti-terrorist squads was under way last night to try to trace the IRA gunmen who murdered Mr Stephen Melrose and Mr Nick Spanos, two Australian lawyers, "by mistake" in Roermond in The Netherlands on Sunday night.

Mr Melrose's widow, Lynald, yesterday described as a "nightmare" the attack in which two hooded gunmen fired a hail of bullets at her husband as he took photographs of a church steeple. At first she thought the noise was caused by fireworks, she said, but then she saw two men with "short guns" running across the town square shooting at her husband.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, condemned the "absolutely cowardly" murders as Dutch detectives disclosed that they had found several possible clues in the burnt-out wreck of the gunmen's getaway car, which was abandoned just across the Belgium border.

Scotland Yard, Belgian and West German police are co-operating with the 45-strong team of Dutch detectives in trying to trace the killers. Despite extensive interviews with witnesses and more than 70 tip-offs, however, the police still have no firm information on the identity of the murderers.

The Roermond public prosecutor has offered 100,000 guilders (£33,000) for information leading to the arrest of

the killers. The IRA has said that its men mistook the two men for off-duty British servicemen.

Mr and Mrs Stephens and Mr Spanos and his girlfriend, Miss Vicki Coss, were travelling in a British-registered car in Roermond, where an off-duty serviceman was killed in a previous IRA attack.

In Australia, Mr Hawke rejected "absolutely" the IRA's apology and its claim that the dead men were accidental victims of war. "This sort of warped logic of war casualties adds insult to a mortal injury. That twisted logic cuts no ice with anyone in this country. I have condemned, without qualification, what has been done."

An Army spokesman in Germany said last night that British forces based on the Continent would continue to drive UK-registered cars despite the "insurmountable" risk for ordinary tourists of IRA attack. "There is no change in policy," he said. "The decision to change from distinctive forces plates to standard British ones was taken by ministers two years ago and it has provided a measure of protection, but there was always the risk that an innocent person would be caught up in an attack as a result."

"Using British plates at least give any attacker an element of doubt, although clearly this did not deter the terrorists in Roermond."

Open Europe, page 2

Rail freight slashed

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is expected to announce draconian plans today to restructure its freight operations, after incurring what are described as "heavy losses" in the Railfreight Distribution sector of the national network.

The cutbacks, which are designed to meet Government profitability targets, are expected to result in hundreds of job losses, and will lead to a dramatic increase in the number of lorries using Britain's congested roads.

The plan is likely to pro-

voked uproar among industrialists, many of whom have received Government grants to help build rail facilities for the specific purpose of expanding rail traffic, while reducing demand for freight movement by road.

Mr John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, denounced the proposed cutbacks as "completely absurd." While the Channel Tunnel is expected to revitalize demand for rail freight, "Government financial targets are forcing

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Rail groups reject access

Western European railways yesterday said they would prefer to see governments spend heavily on unifying the rail systems of east and west Europe and developing high-speed routes rather than give free access to outside operators and separating operating management from commercial operations.

But they welcomed proposals by Brussels to make networks more competitive.

They described free access for outside operators and splitting network management from commercial operations as surrogates for real solutions, and said it would lead to politicians in the place of rail management. Page 23

Suicide doubt

The investigating judge who has taken over examination of the death in Santiago, Chile, of Mr Jonathan Moya, the British journalist hanged in his hotel room, has disclosed that two files are missing from the room, casting doubt on the theory of suicide. Page 4

Austria beef ban

Austria has banned imports of British cattle, sheep and goats and all meat and meat products derived from them, including pet food, because of fears about the "mad cow" disease. It was disclosed yesterday Confidence falls, page 5

Visit postponed

President de Klerk of South Africa has postponed a meeting with President Bush in Washington, apparently over controversy about the timing of the visit, which would precede a tour by Mr Nelson Mandela by a few days. Page 7

Contrived win

Middlesex won their match against Gloucestershire at Lord's by 10 runs with two balls to spare in a contrived finish. They kept their opponents chasing a result by using an occasional bowler. Page 42

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The Roermond shootings

How an open Europe aims to close its doors to terrorists

From IAN MURRAY, BONN

THE IRA is using Europe's lax internal border controls to provide safe escape routes for its terrorists. That makes Roermond, the Dutch market town where two Australians were shot dead on Sunday, an ideal hunting ground.

Sunday was the second time in two years that the IRA had exploited Roermond's frontier location to carry out a murderous attack and escape without any real danger of pursuit. In 1988, an RAF man was killed and another wounded when IRA gunmen shot them as they slept in their car.

The killers on Sunday struck at 11.10 pm and escaped in a Mazda car, whose registration number was flashed accurately to police headquarters within minutes by an alert member of the

public. At 11.23, all border crossing points were notified of the car number, but it was too late. The Mazda had made the six-mile dash to the Belgian border. It was not until 1.15 on Monday morning that the car was discovered about 25 miles away at Leopoldsborg, where it had been set on fire.

The terrorists had disappeared, probably in another getaway car waiting for them in Belgium. The IRA did not claim responsibility for the attack until nearly 20 hours after the two Australians were killed. Such claims are never made until those involved have reported back to Dublin that they are safely out of the way of any likely pursuit. They could even have returned to Ireland by then, using purple EC passports, whose holders are subject to virtually no real check.

A new international border agreement

for the three Benelux countries, France and West Germany to increase police co-operation in the fight against terrorism, drugs and other crime, is expected to be signed in July, although it will be two years before the computers and administration necessary to make this "policing in depth" useful are geared up.

The treaty is meant to be a prototype of the kind of arrangement that will be in place when the EC opens all its internal borders after 1992. Called the Schengen Agreement after the little Luxembourg town where it was first considered, it will to all intents and purposes eliminate border formalities between the five countries. At the same time, their police forces are to co-ordinate and share all their information on computers so that, for example, criminals' records are immediately available and tips about

terrorists' movements are exchanged. The agreement will also allow for hot pursuit of criminals across frontiers. Only two months ago a West German jailbreaker escaped into Belgium with two hostages after killing a policeman. He was closely tailed all the way to the border. The Belgian police failed to pick up his trail when he crossed because they had not been told what was going on, while the West German police were not authorized to give chase over the border. The Schengen Agreement will change all that.

While "policing in depth" should make border towns such as Roermond less inviting to terrorists, military security experts accept there is little point in trying to camouflage servicemen's vehicles by swapping their civilian British licence plates for local West German

ones. The West German authorities, who originally had raised bureaucratic difficulties about this, have more recently been quite ready to co-operate in such a scheme, if it were thought desirable, but this is not being considered because most servicemen buy right-hand drive cars, which would look even more conspicuous with local plates than with British ones. British military or private cars with a left-hand drive, however, are usually fitted with West German plates and servicemen buying them lose none of the tax or cheap petrol advantages they enjoy.

Little can be done either to disguise an off-duty serviceman, with his military bearing and short haircut. "They are fit and they look it. You can't really mistake them for anything but a squaddie," the Army said. "Their haircuts are just like

those fashionable among a lot of young people in Germany at the moment and there is nothing to say that they cannot wear earrings when they are off duty — and many of them do. But you can't disguise that extra bounce they have when they walk."

While sympathetic that the two Australians were killed because they were mistaken for soldiers, the British Army of the Rhine is upset that the victims of the shooting are being described as "innocent". Wing Commander Colin Tavner, who organized the funeral of an RAF corporal and his six-month-old daughter killed by the IRA last October, asked: "What do they mean by innocent? We are all innocent victims of IRA murderers. There is no such thing as a legitimate target for terrorists."

ANDY WATTS

Deaths like scene from horror film, wife says

By DAVID SAPSTED

A DISTRAUGHT wife yesterday described the moment when, "like something out of a horror movie", her husband of less than a year was gunned down by an IRA murder squad in The Netherlands as he set up a tripod to take a photograph of a church.

Her husband, Mr Stephan Melrose, aged 24, and a fellow Australian lawyer, Mr Nick Spanos, aged 28, both working for the City of London firm of solicitors McKenna and Co, were killed "like sitting ducks" on Sunday night by two hooded gunmen in Roermond after being mistaken for off-duty British soldiers. The IRA has said it "deeply regrets" the error.

That apology was flatly rejected by Mrs Lyndal Melrose. "It doesn't do anything for myself and Vicki [Coss, Mr Spanos's girl friend]. I don't think it will do anything for my suffering. It won't bring them back."

"I am in a state of nothing. I don't know what to think of the people who killed my husband. I still don't quite believe it has happened. It happened very quickly but I do remember everything. It is just a nightmare — just something that doesn't happen to you."

The two couples, determined to make the most of their time in the UK by visiting art galleries and cultural centres around Europe, set off for the Continent on Friday on an impromptu, four-day visit to Belgium and The Netherlands. They stopped at Roermond on Sunday evening for a meal in the town square. Eventually, they ate in a Chinese restaurant. "We had a meal, left around 11.05 and walked across the square to the car. Half-way across, we saw a church behind the square — a really high steeple and a beautiful, illuminated clock," Mrs Melrose said.

"Stephan decided to take a photo. It was so cold, so we got in the car and were heading to find somewhere to stay. Nick and Vicki were in the back. I walked round to the passenger front door and was straightening the seat cover when the firing started. It sounded like firecrackers and I thought it was kids. I saw men running with balaclavas on. Two of them had short guns. I got into

the front seat, facing backwards, until it stopped. I heard a window smash and realized it was serious. I was waiting for them to come round, but they never did. I looked up and saw Nick and Stephan on the ground."

Miss Coss told a press conference at Australia House in London: "It was so sudden. There was absolutely no reason why anybody should have been shooting at us. I didn't know what had happened. We were just sitting ducks."

Both women confirmed that neither gunman had shouted any warnings or questions. Mrs Melrose said it was possible that the two victims had been mistaken for servicemen because they were both tall and clean-shaven.

Miss Coss said she had no feelings towards the IRA. "The only thing I would like to say is both Lyndal and I have suffered a great shock and our emotions are completely taken up with the fact that my husband and my boy friend died and I don't think we have any emotion left to have any anger or any sort of feeling towards the IRA. That is probably something that is going to come later on."

Mrs Melrose, who said she intended to return to Australia, added: "They didn't just come to us and shoot. We were parked in a square, a market place, and they started running and shooting from the bottom of the square to the car which was three-quarters of the way up it. I don't think they took any care to try and avoid us [Miss Coss and herself]. They happened to be



Mr Melrose: Was killed as he set up his camera



Mr Spanos: Mistaken for British serviceman

able to kill the boys without touching us."

Mrs Beverley Melrose, Stephan's mother, said she wished the killers could know how she felt about the loss of her son. "It's a bit late for [an apology] isn't it. He's gone. We just wish they could know how we felt. We just hope that they have children."

● A Belfast judge yesterday condemned the use of violence in Ireland by people pursuing political ends.

Mr Justice McCollum said there was no possible justification for violence now whatever excuse there might have been in the past. His comments came as he jailed a Co Down man for 10 years at Belfast Crown Court.

Colm Magorrian, aged 26, of Castlewells, admitted assisting the killers of William John Moreland, a part-time UDR soldier.

Bewilderment and outrage in Sydney Tax on left-hand drive cars waived

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIANS reacted with outrage and bewilderment that two countrymen on holiday should become victims of what most see as an ancient colonial war far removed from life here. For many families there is a shared concern and sympathy over the deaths of Mr Nick Spanos, of Sydney, and Mr Stephan Melrose, of Brisbane, who went to work and travel in Europe like so many other young Australians.

The troubles in Northern Ireland have briefly touched Australia in the most unfair way. Some kind of explanation is also wanted. Despite public expressions of outrage, efforts have been made to try to understand the IRA point of view, with radio and television air time given to the spokesman of an Irish nationalist organization which supports IRA military operations.

Mr Seamus McKerrigan, of the Connolly Association, described the deaths as accidents of war, likening the men to German civilians killed in Dresden by RAF bombers in the last war.

Although Australia has a large and influential Irish population, there is little of the overt support seen here that the IRA enjoys in the United States through public fund-raising organizations.

Dr Neil Blewitt, the acting

Foreign Minister, said the IRA's policy of killing would be rejected by most Australians. Saying the IRA acted with hypocrisy after an act of wanton violence, he added: "There will never be an adequate apology for the families of the young men. One would hope that this wanton set of killings might lead the IRA to reconsider the path of violence down which it has gone for many years. I think that is a dead path."

In an emotional interview with ABC Radio yesterday Mrs Beverley Melrose, mother of Mr Stephan Melrose, said she wished the killers could know how she felt about the loss of her son.

"It's a bit late for [an apology] isn't it? He's gone. There's nothing more can be done," she said. "We just wish they could know how we felt. We just hope that they have children. I guess that people who do things like this have absolutely no feeling. So it probably doesn't affect them a great deal. And we felt they should feel sorry."

Mr Melrose was married nine months ago to his wife Lyndal, who with Miss Vicki Coss escaped uninjured in the attack on the men. His mother said: "They were travelling around a lot while they were living in London, just having a ball."

HUNDREDS of British servicemen in West Germany have taken up the option of buying left-hand drive cars with German registration plates as an extra safeguard against terrorist attacks.

The German authorities agreed towards the end of last year to extend tax concessions to cover German cars as well as British models. The agreement to waive payment of value-added tax on new German cars meant that British servicemen could still benefit from the special tax arrangements which had always existed for the purchase of right-hand drive UK cars.

Even though the cars are registered in Germany, servicemen are also exempted from German road tax. The decision by the West Germans, which was not publicized, has underlined the extent to which the Bonn government has been prepared to safeguard British servicemen and their families.

The tax concessions have encouraged many servicemen to go for the German car option. British military sources said yesterday that about one in five servicemen now had left-hand drive cars with German plates.

Under the VAT arrangement, servicemen who buy cars — British or German — while on tour in West Ger-

many, have to keep the vehicle for a minimum of six months in the country and one year in Britain. If they sell the car, they lose the tax exemption.

After the murder of the two Australian tourists, servicemen have again been warned to be vigilant. A British military spokesman in Germany said: "There is no such thing as being completely safe. But we are not keeping our people behind barbed wire or telling them what to do with their free time. If we did that, we would be giving the terrorists a victory."

The Army is not involved in the hunt for the IRA gunmen, but an appeal on forces' television called for witnesses and the Army said it would help in any way possible.

● Holidaymakers planning to travel to the Continent were urged yesterday by motoring and tourism groups: "Don't let the IRA put you off."

Fears for the safety of Britons driving their own cars on the Continent have been expressed after the IRA attack. However, the Association of British Travel Agents said: "We don't think holidaymakers should worry unduly." The AA said: "Should motorists wish to avoid travelling near military bases abroad, the AA can plan a route for them accordingly."

Computer failure causes air delays

THE main French air traffic control computer failed three times yesterday, 24 hours after controllers had ended their strike, and brought long delays for hundreds of flights (Harvey Elliott writes).

Aircraft at Gatwick heading across French airspace had to queue for permission to take off. Although all British airlines were badly hit, foreign carriers were even worse affected as crews ran out of legal duty hours and aircraft were left stranded.

No sooner had the main Paris computer come back on line and flights began moving again than it failed twice more, throwing schedules back into confusion.

Baritone freed

Mr Ron Firminger, aged 72, a former opera baritone jailed for three months last week for contempt for refusing to hand over to his former wife the antique bed they shared when married, was freed by a judge yesterday after a week in prison. Mrs Jennifer Firminger has since collected the bed.

Hotelier's title

Mr George Goring, who runs what is seen as the most distinguished London hotel in private ownership, the Goring Hotel, near Buckingham Palace, is today declared Hotelier of the Year by the magazine *Caterer and Hotel Keeper*. The hotel was founded by his grandfather in 1910.

Hippies disperse

A convoy of more than 400 hippie vehicles with an estimated 1,200 occupants dispersed yesterday after a Bank holiday weekend free festival of pop and rock music on Inglestone Common, near Bristol. Police said there were 61 arrests.

Writer's prize

A former down-and-out received a £16,000 literary prize from the Prince of Wales last night. Robert McLiam Wilson, aged 26, won the Betty Trask Prize for *Ripley Bogle*, a novel mirroring the author's life as a former Cambridge University student who ended up living rough in London.

Charity stamps

The charity Christmas stamps that raised £520,000 last year will not be repeated. The Post Office said it had hoped to raise more than £1 million. A spokesman said that people seemed to prefer donating to a charity of their own choosing. The money has been distributed to 200 local charities.

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Churches' lost art treasures are found

By SIMON TAIT ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TREASURES lost in dusty vestry cupboards and works of art that have hung above congregations unmarked have been rediscovered by volunteers in a painstaking programme to record church art.

One jewel-encrusted chalice was found in a bank's vault only because of the insistence of a researcher from the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies that the item must exist because she had seen mention of it in an ancient parish listing.

The enormous task of recording the contents of Britain's 17,000 churches, begun in 1973 by the association's church recorders was rewarded last night with one of five National Art-Collections Fund Awards for 1990.

The recorders have so far monitored 400 churches. Mrs Jennifer Beazley, the association's chairman, said: "The £5,000 prize will go towards training more volunteers."

The other winners of last night's awards, sponsored by Slough Estates, were Rosalind Savill, for her catalogue of



Rediscovered: Madonna and child from Letchworth, Herts

Sèvres porcelain; the National Gallery for its Art in the Making exhibition; the Edward James Foundation, for giving West Dean House to form an educational charity; and Chloe Blackburn for an art collection in a men's hostel.

Plan to split pension rights on divorce 'too complicated'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING pensions lawyer gave a warning yesterday that Labour Party proposals to divide a divorcing couple's pension rights could be "unfair" or fraught with "practical problems".

Miss Harriet Dawes, who was the founder chairman of the Association of Pension Lawyers, said that although she had sympathy with the thinking behind the proposals, they would not be straightforward to implement.

"I would very much favour finding a way of sorting out people's pension benefits on divorce. That is in the public interest. But at present there seems no way of doing it. It would be enormously complicated."

Miss Dawes, a partner with the City firm of solicitors Lovell, White and Durrant, said: "I can see quite a lot of problems in operating this in practice."

The whole issue was examined in a paper from the Lord Chancellor's Department in 1985, which proposed legislation to enable the trustees of occupational pension schemes to amend those schemes to provide for an apportionment of benefits in favour of the former spouse on divorce.

Those proposals were never implemented. But they won the backing of the Occupational Pensions Board (of which Miss Dawes is a member). The proposals differ from those of the Labour Party in that they involve delegating the power to deal with the division of benefits on divorce to the managers of schemes themselves.

The Labour Party proposals would be more acceptable to the trustees because the rules governing apportionment would be set down in legislation, Miss Dawes said. Because of the complexity of the task, the new rules "had to be laid down either by the courts, or in legislation."

● Mr Mike Brown, of the National Association of Pension Funds, said it would be difficult to split pension rights upon divorce (Lindsay Cook, Family Money Editor writes). He said that most company schemes base pensions on the final salary of the employees and it would therefore be difficult to split such an entitlement ahead of retirement.

"Firms could work out a notional transfer value but this would have an element of

subjectivity and be administratively expensive. It would not only involve the pension with the present employer but any deferred pensions with old employers, buyout pensions, personal pensions or additional voluntary contributions."

Divorced first wives suffered under the current system because the husband usually takes his pension rights and then leaves a widows' pension to his wife at the time of death, he continued.

"This would only redistribute the existing assets and seems to be based on the idea that the first wife is left with nothing because she has not worked and cannot get pensionable employment after the divorce. But nowadays wives have pension rights of their own and this system could end up splitting two lots of pension entitlement and not making a lot of difference to the husband or the wife."

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Solicitors set to win 'kitemark' for service

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FIRM of solicitors is expected to score a legal first soon when it wins the equivalent of the "kitemark" for its customer services.

Pannone Blackburn in Manchester has been working for some 18 months towards British Standards Institute approval of its service to clients. It is now in the middle of a 16-week implementation period which could make it the first solicitors' firm to qualify.

BSI approval will mean the firm has met criteria covering everything from the moment the client walks in the door to the time taken to deal with letters and how clients are kept informed about the progress of their cases.

The firm's senior partner, Mr Roger Pannone, is a Law Society council member and a leading legal reformer. In his private practice, he pioneered the country's first "disaster"

law firm, which has handled group claims such as those arising from the anti-arthritis drug Opren and the Manchester air crash.

He was also the chief architect of a Law Society green paper, *Lawyers and the Courts*, which set the society on course for its policy of breaking the Bar's monopoly of advocacy rights in the higher courts and of senior judicial appointments.

Mr Pannone said yesterday that the Royal Commission on Legal Services had 10 years ago urged written standards for the profession, and the Civil Justice Review (of which he was a member) felt in 1988 that "there should be standards by which we could be assessed". For too long, he said, the profession had been saying it would do something. The time had come "to have someone come in from outside the profession; someone whose eyes you can't pull the wool over."

The British Standards Institute said yesterday: "This standard relates to quality assurance. It related originally to manufacture and design, but recently we have gone into service industries, such as software computer companies and cleaning companies. With solicitors it is making sure that they can say to customer, 'we are offering a good, cost-effective and efficient service'."

Several other solicitors' firms have applications in the pipeline. Architects are believed already to have met the criteria, and dentists and doctors are thought to be preparing applications.

● A Plymouth firm of solicitors has introduced a set of standards for its service to clients on such issues as fees, complaints and standards of communication.

The firm, Foot and Bowden, issues every client with a booklet which "encourages them to complain", according to Mr Tony Holland, senior partner and vice-president of the Law Society.

The booklet details office opening hours; an emergency telephone number; the firm's charging rates; and how to complain.

Mr Holland is the driving force behind Law Society moves for a professional rule requiring all firms to set up such complaints machinery.

Town hit by football violence

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

SHOPKEEPERS and homeowners in Swindon were repairing their damaged and looted premises yesterday, after a mob of supporters of the town's football team went on the rampage while celebrating the club's promotion to the First Division for the first time.

Apart from the violence earlier this month at Bournemouth, which will be the subject of an inquiry by the Football Association today, the town centre violence by Swindon supporters was the worst outbreak of hooliganism in England this season. It comes only 12 days before the World Cup opens in Italy, when the spotlight will be on the conduct of England fans.

Travellers on a bus were terrorized, lighted matches thrown through a hotel window, burning curtains and carpets, and windows smashed, while stones were hurled at police. The violence began after over 1,000 supporters gathered to celebrate Swindon's win over Sunderland on Sunday.

Doomed man 'was perfectly calm'

A RADIO operator remained calm as flames erupted round him on a blazing oil platform, an inquiry was told yesterday. Timothy Williams radioed a rescue helicopter requesting help to get him off the platform just minutes before he died.

When Captain Gregory Manning told him he could not land his aircraft on the helipad, Mr Williams, aged 25, of Greenhithe, Kent, asked for the best route out of the radio room. But Captain Manning, who was unfamiliar with the layout of the Ocean Odyssey platform, could only tell Mr Williams where fires had broken out so he could work out an escape route himself.

"It wasn't until the closing part of his message, after he had acknowledged that information, that there was some note of stress in his voice," Captain Manning told

the resumed inquiry in Aberdeen into Mr Williams's death. "Once that had happened it alerted me to the fact that he was in some real danger and I tried to call him back. But he did not reply." Before the final message, he did not think Mr Williams was at risk, because his voice was "so perfectly composed and calm".

Earlier, a boatswain who plucked eight men from the sea after the oil platform explosion said he had to break off his search for survivors because flames threatened to blow his boat apart. Mr Howard Leedham, of Hull, said the sea was "boiling like a kettle".

Sixty-six men were saved on September 22, 1988, after a blow-out and fire under the Ocean Odyssey as it was drilling an experimental well 130 miles off Aberdeen. The inquiry continues today.

An A to Z for ill-informed family hypochondriacs

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

FALLING almost exactly halfway between abdomen and zygote in the British Medical Association's new health encyclopedia, the entry on page 555 gives a clue to a section of its potential readership.

It defines hypochondriasis as: "An unrealistic belief or fear that one is suffering from a serious illness, despite medical reassurance." Hypochondriacs, it says, "worry constantly about their bodily health and interpret any physical symptom, however trivial, as evidence of a serious disorder."

Opportunities for this tendency abound in the one million words, 5,000 entries, 2,000 illustrations and 1,184 pages of this tome, published today, which has been compiled over six years for the association by a team of doctors and specialists.

Dr Tony Smith, its editor, insisted yesterday that the *BMA Complete Family*

Health Encyclopedia (Dorling Kindersley, £25) was not a hypochondriacs' handbook. He conceded, however, that anyone dipping into it for that reason would at least be a better-informed hypochondriac.

Dr Smith said that patients who used the encyclopedia as a first resort were less likely to rush to the surgery with a minor ailment that they could treat themselves. More importantly, they would not leave seeking medical help for a serious condition until too late. The book contains a warning, however, that it is not a substitute for medical diagnosis.

Dr Smith said: "Patients today are not prepared to be passive recipients of medical care. They want to be involved in decisions that affect their health. They want to know not only what is wrong with them, but also what the choices of treatment are, and what risks are involved." The encyclopedia was meeting

the need of families for a sound, up-to-date medical reference source for use in the home, he said. Apart from its A to Z of health and medicine, the book contains a drug glossary and a section which gives "lifestyle" advice.

It also refers to "new diseases" such as Aids, Legionnaires' disease and listeriosis. The current scare, "mad cow" disease, is under bovine spongiform encephalopathy which, the book says, is probably caused by a slow-acting virus, and "is unlikely to be transmissible to humans".

As for zygote. Well, that is "the cell produced when a sperm fertilizes an ovum. A zygote, measuring about 0.1mm in diameter in humans, contains all the genetic (hereditary) material for a new individual — half coming from the sperm and half from the ovum." Nothing there to alarm hypochondriacs.



Determined to prove that age is no bar to beauty, a model agency was launched yesterday with no one on its books under the age of 40. Déjà Vu, which claims its assault on "ageism" is unique, has signed famous faces from the Sixties and Seventies, including the trio above, seen below in the 1960s and as they are now. They are (from left) Primrose Anstey, Pat Knight and Tania Mallett. The agency's oldest models are over 70.

Three die as police follow drivers

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE accident investigators are examining two crashes in which three people died while being followed by police.

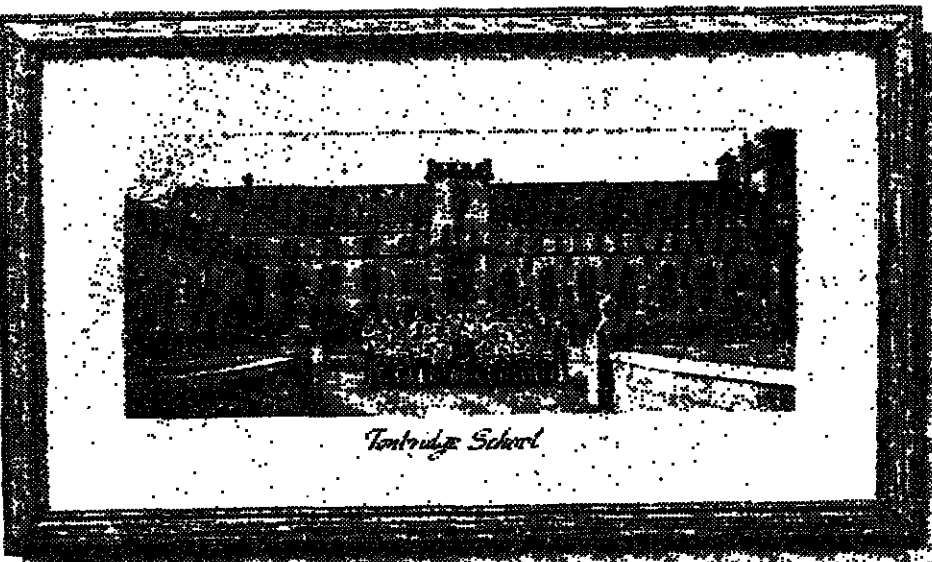
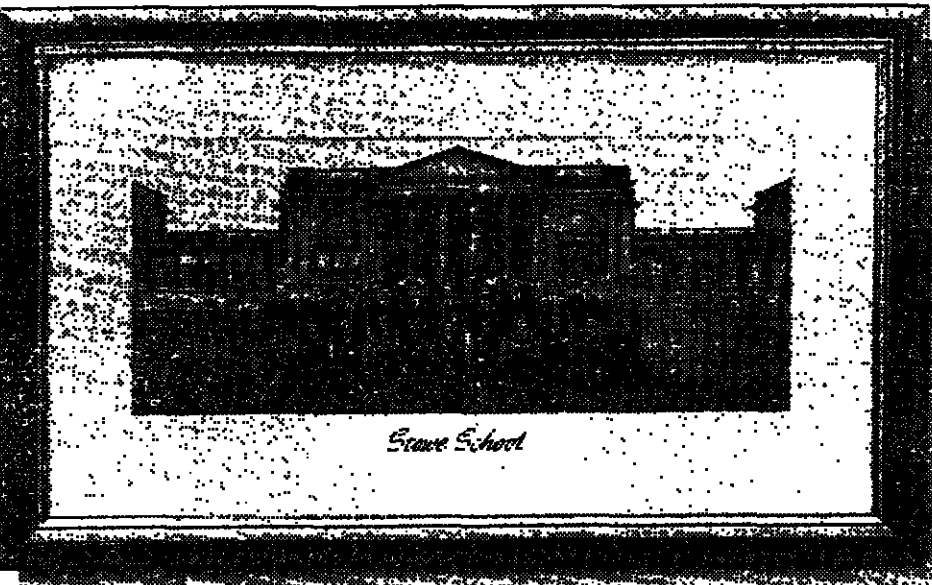
In one incident, Gary Mason, aged 16, who was in social services care, died early yesterday after his stolen Fiesta XR2 veered off a country road and overturned near Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Police said that a panda patrol saw the XR2 being driven erratically. They followed, suspecting the driver might be drunk, putting on their blue light and summoning help. A spokesman said that the patrol car did not pursue the XR2 but followed it.

In the other incident, at Farnham, Surrey, two motorcyclists died when their stolen motorcycle crashed after they had refused to stop for police. The crew of a patrol car spotted the 750cc motorcycle in Farnham and signalled for it to stop for a routine check.

When it failed to pull over they put on the blue light but the bike sped off. The police lost sight of the motorcycle and then found it crashed. A police spokesman said: "The police tried to stop the motorcycle to check it out and were following behind but it disappeared. There was not enough time for a pursuit. The closest they got to it was 200 yards. It wasn't until an hour after the crash that police discovered the bike was stolen."

The names of the dead men were not being released until next of kin were informed.



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Peers rallied for debate on war crimes Bill

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government and Labour front benches in the Lords have launched a rear-guard initiative to prevent the legal establishment killing off the war crimes legislation by dominating next week's debate.

The business managers are rallying lay peers to speak to make sure that, whichever way the vote goes, it is representative of the House. Most legal heavyweights oppose it as "retrospective legislation" which is changing the law solely to catch one group of suspects.

They believe that a representative vote would give the upper House a stronger defence against ministerial charges of provoking a constitutional conflict with the elected chamber and make it less likely that the Government would use the Parliament Acts next session to force through the legislation against the peers' wishes.

The tactic is likely to result in a much closer vote than previously forecast, even though informal soundings still record a majority of peers firmly against staging Nazi war crimes trials in Britain. Although the Lords, like the Commons, will have a free vote on the Bill, the "whip" put out to his 400 peers by Lord Denham, the Government Chief Whip, has underscored the debate with a line to encourage attendance.

So far, 47 peers, most of them from the Conservative and Independent cross-benches, have put their names down to speak in the second-reading debate next Monday. They include Lord Shawcross, the former Labour Attorney General and prosecutor at Nuremberg, who recommen-

ded in 1948 that the War Crimes Commission be wound up. Among the legal heavyweights intending to speak are Lord Ackner, the Law Lord; Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls; and Lord Goodman, a leading solicitor.

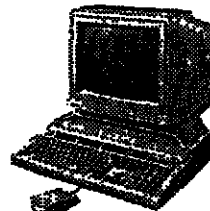
Most noticeable, however, is the age gap between the largely post-war generation of MPs who supported the legislation and the peers on the list with wartime experiences such as the leader of the rebellion against the Bill, Lord Campbell of Alloway, who was a prisoner in Colditz; Baroness Ryder of Warsaw; Lord Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi; Lord Kagan; Lord Blake, the historian; and Lord Carver, the former Chief of Defence Staff.

The parliamentary war crimes group said: "We hope the Lords will take account of three overwhelming votes in favour of this government Bill in the House of Commons. All the Bill seeks to do is to widen the jurisdiction of the offence of murder so that people who should become British citizens after they allegedly committed an offence can be tried in exactly the same way as people who have been British citizens since birth."

The Lords are traditionally restrained by the Salisbury rules from killing off government legislation at second reading. As both Houses have been given a free vote, peers do not believe they apply in this case. However, that has not prevented some senior peers warning their colleagues about the consequences for the upper House of such an unprecedented action against a Bill which enjoyed heavy majorities in the Commons.

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Missing documents add to doubts on journalist's suicide

By LIN JENKINS

A WALLET, briefcase and two files were missing from the Chilean hotel room where a British journalist was found hanged in March, it was disclosed yesterday.

Judge Alejandro Solis, who is examining the death of the defence specialist Mr Jonathan Moyle, said the missing documents were noted only after he replaced the local police team working on the case with men from the criminal investigation unit (SO-7). He had done that because he was concerned about the "loose ends" in initial reports suggesting the death was suicide.

Mr Moyle, aged 28, editor of *Defence Helicopter World* and a former RAF helicopter pilot, had been in Chile for an international aerospace fair. He was due

to leave for La Paz on the day he died to join a CIA drugs mission to the Bolivian jungle, but Chilean police have ruled out the possibility that he was murdered by drug barons.

His 5ft 8ins body was found hanging from a clothes rail 5ft off the ground in a cupboard with the door closed from the outside. A post-mortem examination found sedatives in his stomach, something he had not been known to take. A chambermaid at the Santiago hotel later remembered finding blood on sheets near the bottom of his bed. A further examination of his body on his return to Britain found bruising to his calves.

Mr Tony Moyle, his father, said from his home in Devon: "It shows every sign that he was injected with something. I knew right from the beginning he had

not committed suicide, it just is not something he would do. He had telephoned us shortly before his death and was looking forward to his visit to Bolivia to join the Americans on their helicopter assault on the drug cartels. Jonathan had a great enthusiasm for his work and would have been pleased to get a good story for his magazine.

"My sister, who has been a nurse for 40 years, has seen his body. His face is in repose and there are no broken blood vessels. He did not commit suicide," Mr Moyle has been in touch with Judge Solis over a theory that his son had been murdered in connection with his investigation into breaches of the ban of sales of arms to Iraq.

Before leaving Britain, Mr Moyle, who held a masters degree in international

politics and strategic studies, told at least one person that he was interested in reports that 50 helicopters had been ordered by Iraq. While in Chile he did further work on the reports, and had details in his notebooks of an advanced missile guidance system and sketches to accompany them.

Mr Moyle met Mr Carlos Cardoen, chairman of Industrias Cardoen SA, a Chilean arms producer, and Mr Raol Montesino, the press officer. Mr Montesino met him in the bar of his hotel and is thought to have been the last person to see him alive. A spokesman for Judge Solis said yesterday that Mr Montesino was among 30 men who were to be interviewed in the investigation.

Cardoen denies that its new helicopter has been designed for military purposes.

Mr Cardoen has sent a lawyer to Europe to sue any members of the media that involved in the death. Miss Catherine Royle, of the British Embassy in Santiago, said: "Mr Cardoen has indicated that he intends to sue *Channel 4* over its report into the death. We do not know how Mr Moyle died and are awaiting the judge's report which could take several more weeks. He is very keen to do a thorough investigation because of the international implications and the rumours going around. Suggestions have been made here that the Iraqis were responsible, but nobody has any hard facts.

"Experts tell us that it was quite possible for him to have committed suicide, and there is no evidence of a

motive for murder, but we are not in a position to judge."

She denied that the embassy had been unhelpful to the family. "We have done everything we can do to help," Mr Moyle's father maintains his communication with Judge Solis has been through letters ferried by journalists, since those sent through diplomatic channels did not arrive.

Mr Richard van Oppen, Exeter and East Devon coroner, has adjourned an inquest into the death. It will not be held in full until a further report has been sent by Judge Solis.

Channel 4 News said Cardoen's lawyers had not been in contact, and it was unaware of any pending legal action.

Leading article, page 11

No records of Maguire forensic test, inquiry told

NO PHOTOGRAPH or print-out was made of the results of the forensic test which led to the 1976 conviction of the Maguire family for running an IRA bomb factory, a London inquiry heard was told yesterday.

All visible proof that traces of explosive were found on their hands and gloves faded away hours after the test. Pink spots indicating the presence of nitroglycerine developed during the test by an 18-year-old trainee government scientist, Mr David Wyndham, but disappeared naturally.

No photograph or print-out of the result was obtained, Mr Douglas Higgs, retired head of forensic science at the Royal Armament Research and Development Establishment at Woolwich, told the judicial inquiry into the conviction of the Maguires.

The Maguires were convicted solely on the result of that test and no second confirmatory test was conducted.

Mr Higgs, aged 69, added on his fourth day of questioning: "This particular test leaves no visible record." The pink hue faded in time - "if left in the atmosphere within one hour, maybe two hours".

If covered by a glass plate "it would remain fairly detectable for 24 hours". He agreed that no attempt was made to photograph the spots.

"We have considered this but, if you bear in mind the true colour recorded on photographic plate and the accusations that can be made that you have enhanced your print, I don't think that, as evidence, takes you any further than the memory of the operator when he does the test."

"It is full of potential pitfalls, therefore we didn't choose to do that." Now, a video camera could be used.

Mr Patrick O'Connor, counsel for Giuseppe Conlon, one of the Maguire seven, asked if there was no graph or

print-out, a physical record, left by the test.

Mr Higgs replied: "We have even considered the possibility of photo-electrical measurement whereby you could record a graph of some sort but looking at graphs some time later is very confusing."

The seven were convicted for handling nitroglycerine at the family home in Kilburn, north-west London, after the IRA bombed public houses in Guildford, Woolwich and Birmingham in 1974.

Mrs Annie Maguire, now aged 54, her sons Patrick, aged 29, and Vincent, aged 31, her brother Sean Smyth, aged 52, husband Patrick, aged 57, his brother-in-law Giuseppe Conlon, aged 52, and a family friend, Patrick O'Neill, aged 49, were sentenced to prison terms of between five and 14 years.

The inquiry was ordered in October by Mr Douglas Hurd, then Home Secretary, as part of the investigation into the quashed convictions of the Guildford Four.

The family came under police scrutiny after being implicated in confessions by two of the Guildford Four. Those confessions were later retracted.

Mr Higgs said the Maguire case was the only one of which he was aware in which results of swab tests had not been corroborated by an actual explosion.

He did not believe Mr Wyndham was given a printed set of instructions on how to carry out the test. Mr Higgs said he would have copied into his notebook verbal instructions from his tutor, Walter Elliott.

Asked about the system of checking the laboratories for contamination, Mr Higgs said workshops were swabbed and checked probably every two weeks.

The hearing was adjourned until today.



Sammy, an orphaned wallaby, owes his life to Miss Angela Potter, a warden who reared him at West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park. Sammy, now eight weeks old, spent his early days in an old woollen hat and had to be fed hourly.

Human barrier threat to poll tax poinding

By KERRY GILL

PROTESTERS against the poll tax will today form a human barricade to try to stop sheriff officers entering the house of a woman who has refused to pay her community charge bill.

The poinding, the process in which sheriff officers are entitled to assess a debtor's goods liable for sale to meet a bill, will be the first held in Strathclyde Region, where about £90 million remains outstanding in poll tax bills.

Yesterday, Mr Tommy Sheridan, chairman of the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, said about 100 of his members, supported by local pickets, would gather at the house in the Foxbar area of Paisley to prevent the officers from gaining access.

He said: "This is clearly a test case. This is the first person in Strathclyde to be threatened with a poinding for non-payment of the poll tax. Poindings are the first process in a warrant sale. They are barbaric and socially unacceptable."

Mrs Patricia Ross, aged 40, has refused to pay her £103 bill on principle, considering the tax to be unjust. She is divorced and says that as she is unemployed and lives on

social benefit she cannot not afford the bill which, with legal fees, now totals £118.40. The local poll tax was £295 last year but, because of her low income, Mrs Ross is entitled to a rebate.

Mrs Ross, who lives in a tenement flat with her son aged 16, said: "The officers have visited my house twice before, but I wasn't in. The other day, I received a notice saying that they had the power to force entry if I wasn't there tomorrow."

"Even if they get into the house, there is not a lot they can take."

Mr Sheridan said that whatever happened, it would prove a moral victory for the federation. "We hope the sheriff officers turn up tomorrow to see the strength of feeling and see the kind of peaceful demonstration they can expect in every other house of people who refuse to pay."

If police were called to the house the protesters would still try to stop the poinding, he said.

Anti-poll tax campaigners have stopped poindings in other Scottish regions, and Strathclyde has said poindings would only be instigated as a last resort. However, with almost 20 per cent of people either refusing to pay or seriously in arrears, its patience has now run out.

● A legal loophole that makes banks work for nothing is expected to be plugged because of fears of costly searches for poll tax non-payers. If the law was reformed, Scottish banks could face a combined bill of up to £20 million, it was stated yesterday.

The Scottish Law Commission suggested that banks should be allowed to charge for searching their records. At present, anyone owed money can ask a bank free of charge to find out whether a debtor has money at any branch.

Yesterday, Lord Davidson, chairman of the commission, and the other commissioners proposed that banks should be allowed to charge £10 for each search at headquarters and an extra £1 for a search at each group of 20 branches. The Royal Bank of Scotland, with 826 branches throughout Britain, would be able to charge a council £50 for each search.

Appeal by father of murdered runaway

The father of a murdered teenage runaway appealed yesterday for information about his son's last days alive (Peter Davenport writes).

Simon Martin, aged 14, was found by two 15-year-olds on Saturday in a derelict house on Sunderland seaford known to be a haunt of glue-sniffers. He had left home eight days earlier, apparently without reason.

His father, Mr Robert Martin, appealed for anyone who saw his son in the days before he was found to contact the police. A post mortem has shown that he died from brain injuries caused by a solid object. Police said there was no evidence to suggest that he had been using solvents.

West Country hosepipe ban

South West Water is to impose a hosepipe ban on Friday which will affect 180,000 consumers. The restriction will cover parts of north Devon and north Cornwall, Torbay, South Hams, east Devon and Teignbridge. The water authority blamed a lack of rain for the ban.

Body in cave

Police searching for Michael Boulton, aged 16, who disappeared 13 months ago while jogging near Eym, Derbyshire, were yesterday examining a body found by a potholer 75 yards into Ivy Green Cave, a mile from the boy's home.

Man remanded

Mr John Hope, aged 44, a private investigator of Warley, West Midlands, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with aiding and abetting the abduction of a girl aged three in the city. He was remanded in police custody until Friday.

Coracle museum

A coracle museum, incorporating the workshop of Mr Ron Davies, one of the last coracle makers, has been opened in Cenarth, Dyfed, by Mr Martin Fowler, the local postmaster, to preserve the ancient art of coracle-making.

Ice breaker

A family of four escaped injury when a chunk of ice the size of a football, thought to have come from an aircraft, crashed through the roof of their house in Nursery Close, Thurston, Leicestershire.

Clean away

Thieves stole a 40ft container loaded with 144 washing machines valued at £80,000 from a lorry park at Felixstowe, Suffolk, yesterday.

ADVERTISMENT Breakthrough for male sex problems

AN important breakthrough in the treatment of male impotence has led to unprecedented success in recent clinically controlled trials.

Results of the new treatment on 1500 men has proved that the majority of sufferers can now be successfully treated. A spokesman for The London Diagnostic Centre, a leading independent clinic specialising in the field of male sexual problems said yesterday:

"Male impotence affects far more men than is realised and many of the cases previously diagnosed as untreatable have been helped to resume a normal sex life. Many men are already using this thoroughly tested and safe treatment in the privacy of their own home."

The fully qualified professional staff at the London Diagnostic Centre offer expert help and sympathetic counselling on impotence, premature ejaculation and most other psychogenic or organic disorders.

If you would like to know more and discover how you can lead a happy and more fulfilling sex life, please post the coupon on page 9 today.

Promotion denied 'because of sex bias'

AN AMBULANCE worker was denied promotion eight times because of her sex, a tribunal was told yesterday.

Mrs Kathy Wheeler, a training officer aged 37, was always told she did not have the right qualifications when applying for jobs and was branded a troublemaker, the tribunal at Ebury Bridge, Victoria, London, was told.

"It has always been a struggle. I have had to fight for everything," she said. "I've always had to work two or three times harder than the men for qualifications."

Most of Mrs Wheeler's male colleagues did not have to ask for jobs or training courses, they were just allocated them, she said.

Mrs Wheeler, of Bullers Road, Farnham, Surrey, was turned down for three jobs within the London Ambulance Service training unit at Waterloo, central London, last year. A man was appointed in each instance.

Mrs Wheeler also claimed that one candidate for the post of assistant divisional officer, for which she applied last September, had been groomed for the job by her boss. "I knew all the answers when no one else did," she said.

Mrs Wheeler is claiming sexual discrimination and victimisation by the London Ambulance Service for the last six of her 15 years' service. "All members should have equal opportunities," she said. "The ambulance service does not give equal opportunities to its employees." The hearing continues today.

Ceramics records tumble

SALEROOM

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

THE record price for British ceramics was broken four times in 15 minutes at Christie's in London yesterday, creating a windfall for two beneficiaries of a collector's will.

The sensation took place at the first session in a two-day sale of the Rous Lench collection, 600 items accumulated over 40 years by Thomas Burn (1908-1985).

He bequeathed his house, Rous Lench Court, near Worcester, and its collection to two friends, Mrs Monica Houghton and Mr James Newman. Some of the £1.9 million proceeds of yesterday's session will go towards the tax bill.

A 7 in London Delft salt cellar, modelled as a youth wearing a striped blue coat and holding a tray, sold to Mr Jonathan Horne, a London dealer, for £176,000 (estimate

£30,000 to £40,000). The price, the new record for British ceramics, compares with the previous record of £112,200. The sale made £520 at Sotheby's in 1962.

Mr Horne continued what was to become a £1.4 million spending spree by paying £154,000 for a London Delft dated candlestick (estimated at £20,000), and the same price for a bulging wine bottle painted with a portrait of Charles II in armour (estimate £60,000).

A spokesman for Mr Horne said that he had bought seven items, "partly for a client and partly for stock".

Mr Horne, after his £1.4

million spree, said: "I feel shell-shocked. That's a lot of money for pottery. It didn't leave very much for anyone else."

Most of his purchases would go to the United States, and he will shortly be applying for export licences.

An anonymous buyer also broke the record for slipware, paying £93,500 (estimate £30,000) for a charger by the leading Staffordshire maker Ralph Simpson. Its centre is decorated with a stylized cat with a human face.

Sotheby's had similar success with a sale of Chinese export porcelain. A pair of Qianlong pheasants, each standing on clawed legs painted in vivid yellow, sold to the London dealers Partridge Fine Arts for £132,000, double the estimate, breaking the record for 18th century Chinese export birds.

Pacific visitor drives twitchers to sea

HUNDREDS of birdwatchers were sailing the Bristol Channel yesterday in search of a 10-inch sea bird which ought to be several thousands of miles away in the northern Pacific Ocean.

The first ancient murrelet, a type of auk, to be recorded anywhere in the Atlantic was said by the Bird Information Service to have been last spotted on the sea south of Lundy Island off Devon.

However, the armada of little boats is worrying wildlife wardens who fear the "twitchers" may upset Lundy Island's famous puffin population, and nature reserve staff have been standing by to repel the visitors. The appearance of the

black and grey *Synthliboramphus antiquus* has resulted in birdwatchers hiring every boat available in the Ilfracombe, Bideford, Appledore. Some harbour masters doubt all the boats could legally carry passengers.

Enthusiasts, though, were so anxious to get to the island that some would not wait for the official ship Oldenburg, booked to take 250 of them, leaving the organizers out of pocket. Others shied away from television cameras as they boarded because they were meant to be at work and not bird hunting.

The murrelet was spotted on Sunday at Jenny's Cove on the island by 250 members

of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds who had come to observe puffins. Mr Stan Davies, regional director for the society, who was one of the first to identify the bird, said: "It was very exciting for the people on our trip. They had only gone out to Lundy to see the puffins, but ended up seeing the murrelet. It must rate as the rarest bird seen in Europe for some time."

"We had to go and borrow a bird book before we could identify what it was. It must have been blown from the Pacific, the Atlantic, across Panama or at Cape Horn, and then taken back north by the winds and currents."

Mr John Puddy, agent on

Lundy Island, said he had already told some skippers not to land.

"One thing we were worried about is that they could disturb the resident puffin population because the murrelet may be near their nesting area. We are particularly worried about them trying to land in the cove itself and we have someone standing by stop them."

"The area is a site of special scientific interest, and we have the power to restrict access and movement if necessary. It is more important to us to protect other sea bird colonies than for people to view one bird that has appeared on the island."

Light shines at last on a Connemara peat bog

By EDWARD GORMAN
IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

TO THE untutored eye the view from Mr Patrick Keady's kitchen window, where he has paused for thought, pipe in hand, thousands of times over the past 60 years, is of little more than the browns and greens of a treeless Connemara peat bog.

On the horizon, the black mountain where he shares the commonage with his neighbour Mr Lydon; closer, the brown trout lake and in the foreground the green fields defined by white stone walls which, in this part of Ireland, seem to have been built only to clear the ground of stone.

You could probably fit most of west London into the area visible from Mr Keady's kitchen window. In fact, there are only two other houses. Mr Lydon's away to the left and the one belonging to the Faherty family about half a mile away on the right. Together, they make up the townland

of Tammachai Beaga or little hills, on the edge of "nowhere" as Mr Keady would say, about 15 miles north-west of Galway.

The sight which fills him with pride and joy is the wooden electricity poles now marching across the peat to his isolated white-walled stone cottage. "It just makes me happy to look at them even though we haven't got the light already," Mr Keady said.

The construction over the past two weeks of the 26 poles, which link little hillsides finally with the next townland down the hillside on the way to the local village centre of Moycullen, marks the end of an 18-year battle by the Keady, Lydon and Faherty families to get electricity. In the early days when it was first theoretically available to them, they could not persuade the "old people" that electricity was safe. Martie Lydon said the old people always considered electricity to be a form of thunder and

lightning which could strike the house down at the merest flick of a switch.

Then it was cost that defeated these poor smallholders, until a way was found to subsidize the estimated £25,000 bill with money from the European Community. Even so, the outlay for each family is astronomical. Mr Keady and his wife Elizabeth, who have three children, have to find £2,000 from an income consisting of unemployment benefit and whatever he can eke from his seven acres, six cows and a pony.

But he is ready for the 20th century. His house is wired and there is a bulb in every room. He has bought a new refrigerator and acquired an old television set, which is broken but not beyond all hope. On Friday, the big day of the switch-on and 204 years since electricity was invented, Mr Keady will be host at a celebration party for his neighbours. There will be dancing and a few glasses of the

mountain dew.

Mr Keady says he never gave up hope that he would see electricity in his house before he died. "God was always on my side," he said. It has been hard on the children, who have struggled with homework without sufficient light, and the family has always feared that one day a candle might fall and set the house on fire.

Mr Keady, who spends his day "footing" the peat turves, "making it up", and gathering pails of water, is looking forward to watching the news and the horse-racing. For him, the coming of electricity merely confirms that his house is in the finest location in the world.

"When you get up in the morning, you have the feeling that you are enjoying yourself with your work and you carry on from one day to the next," he said. "I'm happy doing that. We are here on our own and we don't bother anyone - just nice and quiet."

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BSE scare adding to beef doubt, survey says

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-TERM fall in consumer confidence in beef is being accelerated by fears about "mad-cow" disease, it was claimed yesterday. A public opinion survey found that over the past 12 months there had been a 10 per cent decline in the number of people who believe that beef is good for them.

The Nielsen market research company found that of the 40,000 people surveyed 54 per cent now thought beef was a healthy diet, against 64 per cent last summer. The survey was conducted mainly before the emergence in public concern about the death of a cat from a condition resembling bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

"This decline in public confidence in beef is extremely disturbing for both farmers and retailers", Miss Nicola Scaffron, a spokesman for the company, said. Survey results indicated that shoppers were already beginning to feel worried "even without all the hype" about BSE.

Mr Colin Maclean, the Meat and Livestock Commission's technical director, said,

however, that the survey showed how "robust" the demand for beef was despite adverse publicity. "Of course, there is a problem with public perceptions, but beef has held up rather well".

Last week, the commission disclosed that there had been a drop of nearly 50 per cent in the sales at cattle auctions in England and Wales, as farmers held cattle back while they waited to see how the market would develop. The commission said, however, that so far cattle prices had fallen only slightly and it was confident that sales would pick up as media coverage died down.

The Nielsen study found that a little over a quarter of those surveyed now considered beef to be "bad" for them compared with 17 per cent last summer. Among women, three out of 10 took that view, against two out of 10 among men. Over the same period attitudes to lamb and pork remained almost unchanged.

In a further worrying finding for the beef trade, the survey suggested that up to 6 per cent of Britons were now vegetarians and that another 16 per cent had given up red meat but still ate poultry. That would indicate a bigger swing towards vegetarianism than other recent polls have found. In early April, Gallup suggested that 3.7 per cent of adults were vegetarian and a further 6.3 per cent avoided red meat.

A Coventry meat-packing firm which specialises in beef reported yesterday that it had lost £1 million orders in two weeks and had been forced to lay off 50 of its 65 full-time staff because of the scare over BSE.

Mr Hugh Leman, a partner in the firm, Cumberland Meatpackers, said: "It is going to take a very long time to get back to where we were two months ago".

At Blisworth, in Northamptonshire, Anglo-Beef Processors announced that it had given the day off to 60 slaughtermen after the number of cattle received for slaughter fell last week to 2,500 from the normal weekly total of 3,500. The company's managing director, Mr Richard Cracknell, said he was not panicking but was "encouraging employees to take holidays and all overtime has been stopped".

A fellow farmer, Mr Sandy McFadyen, has spent £5,000 ring-fencing fields with more than a mile of anti-rabbit fencing.

Gun guard as rabbits hit farms

FARMERS in the West Country are waging war on what they say is the biggest invasion of rabbits this century by mounting shot-gun patrols. The tally of dead has passed 1,000 as landowners mount a day-and-night guard on crops.

Mr Dennis Smith, a farmer, said: "This is the biggest invasion I have to be known to my community". He said that his barley had been attacked and that grazing land had been left bare by rabbits on the cliffs overlooking Lyme Bay in east Devon.

"The only way we can combat the invasion is by shooting the rabbits or fencing them in," said Mr White, of Salcombe Regis. "Acres upon acres of my land is being destroyed."

A fellow farmer, Mr Sandy McFadyen, has spent £5,000 ring-fencing fields with more than a mile of anti-rabbit fencing.

Runway scheme divides islanders

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to extend the runway on the Scilly Isles by 90 metres — just twice the width of each runway at Heathrow — has divided islanders and led to a major environmental dispute that may eventually involve the Prince of Wales.

The 600-metre grass strip, which has served St Mary's airport for 50 years is crumbling and the Civil Aviation Authority has ruled that it will have to close unless it can be surfaced to enable passenger-carrying aircraft to land safely.

Councillors decided that if the runway is to be brought up to date it should also be extended to allow larger aircraft to use it and provide a service for holidaymakers and the local economy, mainly reliant on producing fresh flowers for British and French cities.

The extension would mean, however, covering an area of important natural beauty with 30,000 tons of granite hardcore and surfacing. The environmental trust set up by the Duchy of Cornwall to administer the Prince's land in the islands was asked if it would hand over the land voluntarily, but refused. If the local council decides to go ahead, the trust says, it will have to ask the Prince to order the trust to transfer the site.

Mr Mike Hicks, a local businessman, said: "If we are going to go into a new century and the expanded Common Market we must have a decent landing site on the islands. It would be quite ludicrous, at a time when people are flying more and more as a matter of

course, to force the islands to return to the old ways of communicating with the mainland only by sea, or, at best, by helicopter."

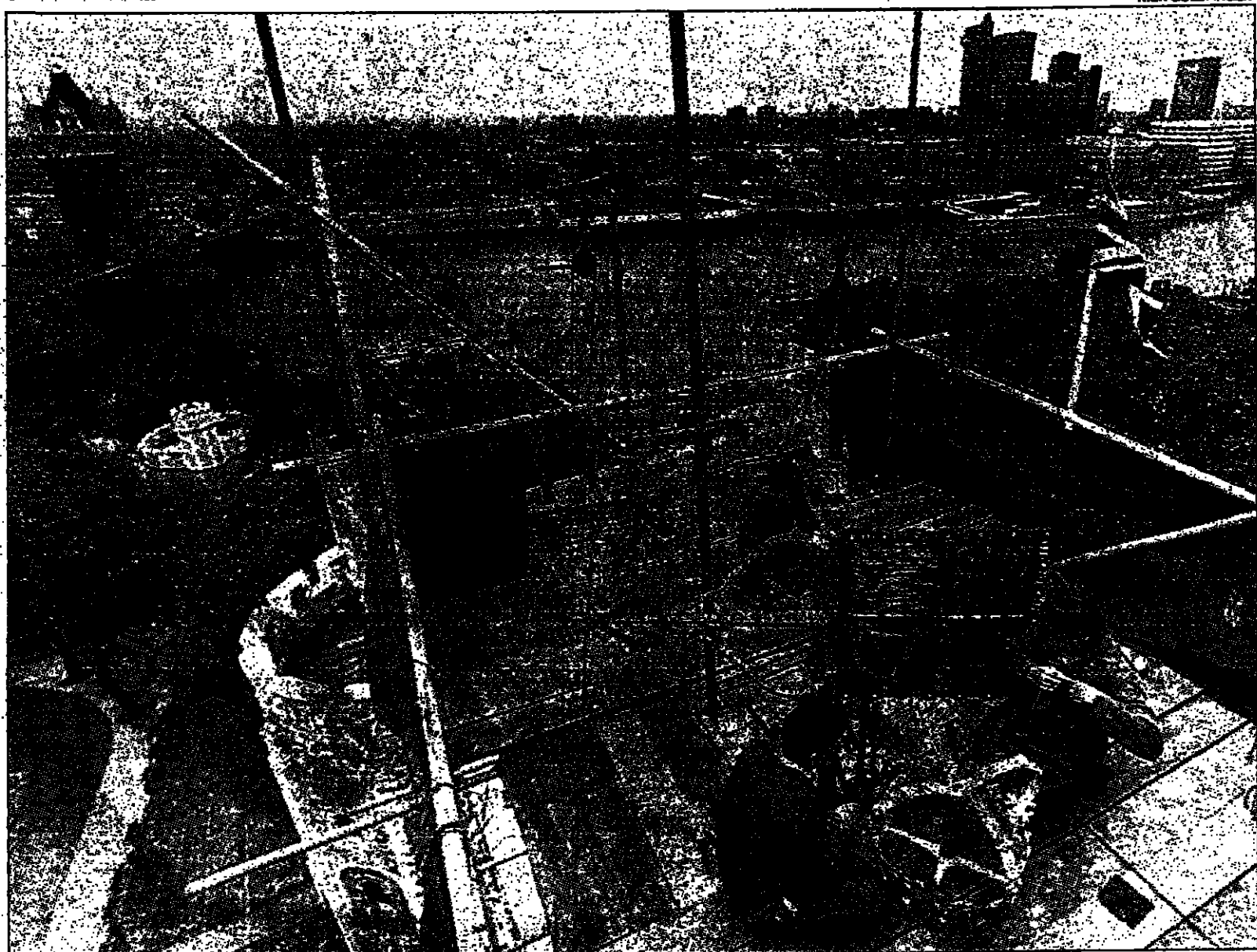
The councillors voted narrowly for the improvement scheme and have sought tenders for the work.

Mr Hicks said that with only £1.5 million available for development, the size of the tenders might settle the issue, but added: "Whatever happens, we must do something to improve the landing strip."

Mr Robert Dorian-Smith, chairman of the trust and a pilot, agrees on improvements, but opposes an extension. He said: "The original 600-metre strip is adequate for any aircraft which now use the runway and by extending it not only would it mean destroying an important and beautiful coastal footpath, but would mean 30,000 tons of granite being ferried through the tiny country roads."

Bryson Airways, which now flies a Twin Otter between Plymouth and the islands every day, disagrees. "We can only use our bigger aircraft, the 48-seater Dash 7, on a runway which is 690 metres long," said a senior official. "To make the operation profitable, we have to use the Dash 7."

The only other air links with the mainland are by helicopter from Penzance or by a nine-seater Islander aircraft from Land's End, and, say those in favour of developing the airport, there is no guarantee that they will always be available.



High above the Thames on top of the Tower of London workers check repairs to the White Tower's weather vane, which was badly damaged by storms. Mr Gary Mercieca (left), Mr Roger Hunter (right) and his son Craig (top) work for J Redpath Buchanan, steeplejacks

Airport express £6 fare attacked

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to charge a fare of more than £6 for the proposed Heathrow-Paddington express link will lead many passengers to use overcrowded Piccadilly Line trains, it was claimed yesterday.

The new service will be beyond the reach of low-income groups, as it will not be subject to London Transport's concessionary fare system, Mr Jonathan Bray, of the capital transport campaign lobby group, said. He was also concerned about the prospect of congestion and delay at Paddington. "Heathrow needs better rail links, but they should form part of an integrated transport network for London," he said.

The £235 million express link will go from Heathrow to Paddington in 16 minutes. It is being jointly sponsored by British Rail and the BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority), and comes into operation in 1994.

BAA defended the fare yesterday, saying the service was designed to be operated as "a premium product", providing wide seats, extensive luggage space, and multi-lingual staff. "It is not intended as a commuter service."

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De Klerk puts off US trip amid row over Mandela tour

President F.W. de Klerk has postponed his planned visit to the United States until after the end of the month, amid a row over his intended trip to South Africa to meet Nelson Mandela.

Mr de Klerk, who has been decried in the United States as a "minor apartheidist", is expected to arrive in South Africa on Monday, June 4, to meet Mr Mandela, who has been decried in the United States as a "minor apartheidist".

Mr de Klerk's visit to South Africa is part of a tour that includes stops in London, Paris, and New York. He is expected to arrive in New York on June 10.

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Lebanese join 'war' against war

Thousands of Lebanese have joined a "war" against war, protesting against the high cost of living and the continued civil war in Lebanon.

The General Union of Lebanese Workers called for the strike, which was held in Beirut, Tripoli, and other cities.

The strike was a protest against the high cost of living and the continued civil war in Lebanon.

Peking puts political pressure

Peking has put political pressure on the Communist Party of China, demanding that it take a more active role in the country's political life.

The Communist Party of China has been accused of being a "paper tiger" and of being a "bureaucratic dictatorship".

Accused slum landlord

A man accused of being a slum landlord has been charged with the murder of a woman who died in a fire in his building.

The man, who is a Chinese national, is accused of being a slum landlord and of being involved in the murder of a woman who died in a fire in his building.



Blutto poised to declare Sind state of emergency

Benazir Bhutto is poised to declare a state of emergency in Sindh province, Pakistan, in response to the violence and lawlessness that has erupted there.

Ms Bhutto, who is the Prime Minister of Pakistan, is expected to announce the declaration of a state of emergency in Sindh province.

The sweet smell of success in Japan

Japan's economy is showing signs of recovery, with a rise in consumer confidence and a decline in unemployment.

The Japanese government has announced a series of measures to stimulate the economy, including a reduction in taxes and an increase in public spending.

Malaysia to hang 8 as final plea fails

Malaysia is preparing to execute eight drug traffickers after their final appeals have failed.

The eight men, who are of various nationalities, were convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to hang.

Triads spread tentacles as Hong Kong handover approaches

Triad gangs are spreading their tentacles across Hong Kong as the handover to China approaches.

The Triads, which are organized crime groups, have been active in Hong Kong for many years and are now expanding their operations into mainland China.

Gabon troops regain control in Port Gentil

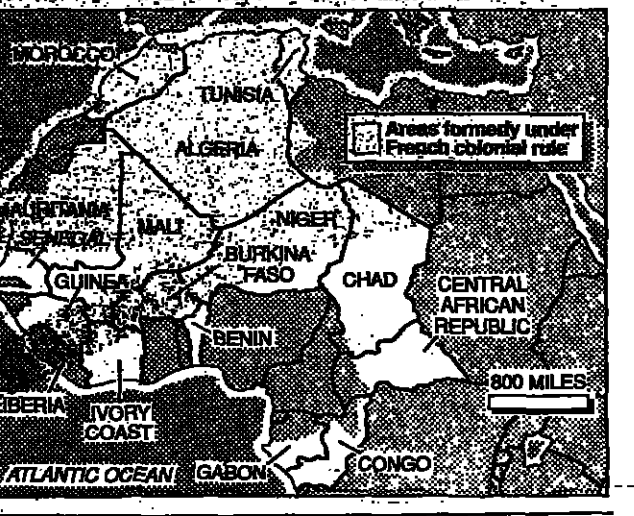
By Susan MacDonald and Leif Jakes

TROOPS in Gabon yesterday regained control of Port Gentil, the country's economic capital, where several people have been shot in anti-government unrest and hundreds of foreigners have fled.

The troops, who are loyal to President Omar Bongo, have been fighting against a group of rebels who are demanding the end of Bongo's rule.

The rebels, who are known as the "Fleuve" (River) movement, have been active in the region of Port Gentil for several months.

The fighting has resulted in the deaths of several people and the displacement of thousands of others.



Abidjan protests weaken iron rule

From Philip Jacobson in Abidjan

AS THE UNPRECEDENTED wave of anti-government protests grows in the Ivory Coast, President Houphouët-Boigny is losing the iron grip he has held on the country for 30 years.

The protests, which are led by a group of young people known as the "Jeune Équipe" (Young Team), are demanding the end of Houphouët-Boigny's rule.

The protests have resulted in the deaths of several people and the displacement of thousands of others.

Triads spread tentacles as Hong Kong handover approaches

Triad gangs are spreading their tentacles across Hong Kong as the handover to China approaches.

The Triads, which are organized crime groups, have been active in Hong Kong for many years and are now expanding their operations into mainland China.

Prague revolution 'engineered by the secret police'

By JOHN SIMPSON

THE revolution in Czechoslovakia was completed in two weeks without the breaking of a window, as the Czechs and Slovaks say proudly. For those who remember the events of 1968, or who saw at first hand the repression in the years which followed, it was a superb moment when Mr Vaclav Havel was inaugurated as President on December 29 and his friends gave up their jobs as stokers or night-watchmen and became government ministers. But what if the unexpected revolution happened, not by good luck and good judgement, but because it was planned by a small group of secret policemen, with the encouragement of the KGB and perhaps of President Gorbachov himself?

Conspiracy theories, the self-exculpating myths of intelligent people under repression, abound in Central Europe. When I was asked to script a BBC2 documentary which suggested that the revolution in Czechoslovakia had been engineered in this way, I was deeply sceptical. Yet the quality of the evidence is impressive.

It comes in part from Dr Milan Huliak, a leading member of a 10-man parliamentary commission set up by the new Government to investigate the violence of Friday, November 17. By attacking a student demonstration that night the Prague police began a chain of circumstances which ended in the downfall of the Communist Government. There have long been suspicions about the origins of what is referred to in



Swept from power: Mr Miroslav Stepan, left, and his leader, Mr Milos Jakes, right, both forced to resign from office in November last year

Prague as "the massacre". Now Dr Huliak's commission has interviewed most of those closely involved and issued an interim report. He was persuaded to talk on camera by Miss Zuzana Bluh, a student leader during the Prague Spring, who worked on the documentary and has read the report.

Its findings may be summed up as follows. Towards the end of 1988 a small group of prominent party figures, together with General Alois Lorenc, the head of the StB, the Czechoslovak counterpart of the KGB, met in secret. Unlike their superiors, they were all

supporters of Mr Gorbachov's policies. They drew up a paper which concluded that the leadership of Mr Milos Jakes and Mr Miroslav Stepan lacked all popular support and could not survive long. Sooner or later, it said, the party would have to come to terms with the opposition. The old leadership should be ousted, and there should be a new offensive to infiltrate the dissident movement. Thus the way would be open for a moderate, Gorbachovian leadership to negotiate with a divided and weakened opposition.

General Lorenc undertook the task of

infiltrating the various opposition groups. The plan, code-named Operation Wedge, was highly successful. But removing Jakes and Stepan from the leadership proved much more difficult. Last year, as Poland and Hungary began the process of emancipation from Soviet influence and East Germany showed signs of internal collapse, the conspirators decided they had to act. Their operation was scheduled for November 17, the 50th anniversary of the shooting by German troops of a Czech student, Jan Opletal.

The plan called for the simulation of the death of a student at the hands of the riot police. The conspirators calculated that this echo of the Nazi past would arouse such public anger that Messrs Jakes and Stepan would be forced out of office. Here, perhaps, the story appears to veer off into melodrama, yet the commission's information comes from someone who might be expected to know: the StB officer who played the part of the corpse. Lieutenant Ludek Zivcak had infiltrated the student leadership as part of Operation Wedge. When the demonstrators gathered at Jan Opletal's grave in Vysehrad cemetery on the afternoon of November 17, Zivcak was one of the voices advocating a march on the city centre: and when the crowd marched along the embankment beside the Vltava, he led them towards Wenceslas Square.

The police had turned Narodni Street into a trap from which there was no exit. In the attack on the demonstrators there were 561 casualties and one faked death.

In the violence and confusion Lieutenant Zivcak fell to the ground and his body was covered with a blanket. An unmarked ambulance took him away. Rumours of the death spread quickly. A woman who has since disappeared went to the distinguished Catholic layman and Charter 77 signatory, Mr Vaclav Benda, and told him the dead man was Martin Smid from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics at the university, a friend of hers since childhood. Mr Benda told his close associate in Charter 77, Mr Petr Uhl, who ran an information service for foreign journalists. Mr Uhl told the BBC and the Voice of America. There were two Martin Smids studying at the Faculty. One was away at the time. The other had been at the demonstration, but went on television to show that he was uninjured. The police arrested Mr Uhl for spreading false rumours. But by now the anger of tens of thousands of ordinary people had been aroused. The demonstrators grew by the day, until Mr Jakes and Mr Stepan were forced to resign.

Dr Huliak's committee has established that on the night of the November 17 demonstration General Lorenc dined at an StB safe house in Prague with General Testenko, the KGB's head of station in the city, and with the deputy chairman of the KGB, General Viktor Grushko, who had flown in from Moscow three days before. Their meal was interrupted by 25 telephone calls. At the end Lorenc and Grushko drove to the StB's operational headquarters, where they spent much of the night. The next morning General

Grushko returned to Moscow. Dr Huliak is convinced that the Soviet leadership was involved in the conspiracy: General Grushko's immediate superior is General Kryuchkov, a member of Mr Gorbachov's Politburo.

The twin objectives of the conspiracy had now been achieved: Jakes had gone, the opposition was penetrated. But it soon became clear that the plot was based on a central miscalculation. Its authors had assumed that the people would be satisfied with a return to the reform communism of 1968. They had chosen as their candidate for the new party leadership one of the most respected men from the Prague Spring: Mr Zdenek Mlynar, a leading figure in Dubcek's Central Committee. He was purged in 1969, had signed Charter 77 and lived in exile in Vienna. He was also a friend of Mr Gorbachov; they had been law students in Moscow.

Mr Mlynar paid a brief visit to Prague in November, during which he met a leading conspirator and two members of the Soviet Central Committee. At this point the plot collapsed. Mr Mlynar had no interest in leading the Communist Party. The people of Czechoslovakia wanted nothing to do with reform communism. Mr Havel and Civic Forum were swept into government on an immense wave of public enthusiasm, the beneficiaries of an unlikely plot by their worst enemies.

John Simpson is Foreign Affairs Editor of the BBC. The documentary, *CzechMate*, will be shown on BBC2 tonight at 8.10.

Gorbachov faces angry welcome by emigrés

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS THOUSANDS of Baltic Americans began arriving in Washington yesterday for four days of high-profile summit demonstrations, Lithuania's senior foreign diplomat warned of the "catastrophe" facing his homeland.

Arriving by the coachload from across America, and supported by other Eastern bloc emigrés, the protesters intend to vent their displeasure over President Gorbachov's crackdown on Lithuania in a series of rallies and vigils outside the White House, the Capitol and the Soviet Embassy.

Mr Stasys Lazoraitis, the Lithuanian chargé d'affaires in Washington, said he hoped the demonstrations would be peaceful, but pointed out that nothing had come from five years of peaceful protest in Lithuania itself. At a press conference yesterday, Mr Lazoraitis predicted that his country could survive Moscow's economic blockade for just one more month before it collapsed — and even then it would choose outright occupation by Moscow rather than renounce its declaration of independence.

He said that 200,000 Lithuanians had already lost their jobs because of the blockade. Heavy oil for agriculture was almost exhausted, as was petrol and many raw materials. Medicines, too, were running out. Lithuania had survived as long as it had only because of the determination and ingenuity of its people, but "a very, very tragic situation" was developing.

Asked what he hoped for from the summit, Mr Lazoraitis called on President Bush to press Mr Gorbachov to lift the economic blockade, to move towards a recognition of Lithuanian sovereignty, and to agree to genuine negotiations with the Lithuanians.

He was doubtful, however, about how far Mr Bush was prepared to push Lithuania's cause, and criticized Washington's past reluctance to put pressure on Moscow. This, he said, had sent misleading signals to Soviet hardliners and military leaders, who were able to argue that Mr Gorbachov could do what he

wanted in Lithuania without fear of reprisal from the West. The Lithuanian cause has strong support on Capitol Hill, where the Senate has passed a resolution urging Mr Bush not to send legislation granting preferential trading status to the Soviet Union, in the present circumstances. The Administration, without ever making the link explicit, has strongly hinted that Mr Bush will not sign a coveted trade agreement with Mr Gorbachov at the summit unless the blockade is lifted.

But, during a press conference a few days ago, Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, crystallized the predicament of an Administration caught between support for Lithuanian independence, which it fears could undermine Mr Gorbachov, and a desire to maintain progress towards arms control, defusing regional conflicts and Soviet democratization.

"Soviet policies, as we have seen in Lithuania, may disturb us deeply, offending our fundamental values," he said. "Yet, as the President has made clear, there is too much at stake in the US-Soviet relationship to dismiss cavalierly or imprudently the search for points of mutual advantage."

● MOSCOW: The three Baltic republics, which have declared independence from Moscow, announced yesterday that President Gorbachov had no legal authority to represent them at the Washington summit. In a declaration published in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, the foreign ministers of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia said their governments would welcome agreements between the United States and the Soviet Union that helped them recover their independence.

The ministers recalled that their countries had come under Soviet military occupation as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact in 1939 dividing eastern Europe into spheres of interest, and were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union. (AFP)

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President Gorbachov, showing no sign of strain from his domestic troubles, striding out at Moscow airport to board a plane bound for Canada

Unrest at home may strengthen Moscow's hand in Washington

From PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

SOME US negotiators fear that growing uncertainties surrounding President Gorbachov's hold on power will enable the Soviet side to force summit concessions from President Bush. "There is undoubtedly a sense that we can't send him home empty-handed," said one State Department official yesterday. "And we may put more into his hands than we really want to."

Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, has used some un diplomatic language this week in referring to the possible overthrow of the Soviet leader and the succession that might follow. Conservative critics were at first pleased at what they saw as growing realism from Mr Baker. But now, they fear that Mr Gorbachov's problems may become part of Mr Baker's weaponry to force new concessions on strategic and conventional force cuts.

At the centre of US strategic concerns is Moscow's demand to continue modernizing its heavy SS-18 missiles after their numbers have been cut. On the diplomatic side, the main problem is in finding a way for the Soviet Union out

of the stalemate caused by the disagreement about a united Germany's status in Nato. The so-called "sharps" groups of advance negotiators have reportedly made little progress so far.

The US side, led by the Administration's top arms control specialist, Mr Reginald Bartholomew, has spent three days with their Soviet counterparts, led by Mr Viktor Karpov. Their main aim is still to allow a declaration for the summit, based on a draft treaty, that all obstacles to a full Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start) have been overcome.

American officials have expressed satisfaction that work has at last begun on dismantling the Krasnoyarsk radar which Moscow has already admitted to be a breach of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty. But this can only be seen as a public relations gambit in advance of the summit: the decision to dismantle Krasnoyarsk was reached last year.

Some progress has apparently been made on trade issues but it is still uncertain whether a treaty will be signed this week. President Bush says

that a US-Soviet trade deal is "not on the table". Mr Baker says that it is "not off the table". So somewhere up in the air hangs what once was considered one of Moscow's top objectives for this week's summit.

Officials on both sides have completed the detailed negotiations on reduced tariffs for Russian furs and vodka and increased access to Soviet markets for American consumer goods. In the last few days a number of disputed issues have been resolved, including improved copyright protection for US computer software.

But the question of whether the deal will be brought out for signature depends on political decisions to be made at the summit level alone. US officials believe that Mr Gorbachov is prepared for a postponement of trade benefits in order to avoid too intrusive a US investigation of the Lithuanian embargo.

Officials cite the decision to postpone the Soviet parliamentary debate on new emigration laws which are part of the US preconditions for granting the Soviet Union most favoured nation trade

status. Even if these had been passed President Bush would have been under pressure to withhold trade liberalization at least until the embargo on essential supplies to Lithuania was lifted.

By not passing the law, Mr Gorbachov has made it easier to keep Lithuania off the detailed agenda. The Soviet advance party, talking to the press in Washington, has stressed several times that Lithuania is a wholly Soviet domestic issue.

President Bush, for public consumption at least, has said that he will not allow the problems of the Baltic states to be "swept under the carpet".

US preparatory work is also continuing on the issues of a neutral government for Afghanistan, cutting Soviet aid for Cuba and the rebels in El Salvador and the Soviet backing for Angola's destabilization of Namibia.

The danger of a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir is rising up the regional agenda.

The American side is not confident, however, that it can shift Mr Gorbachov into putting pressure on his Indian allies.

Troubled times for both host and guest

From JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

PRESIDENT Gorbachov, who flew into Ottawa yesterday for a two-day official visit, has something in common with his host, Mr Brian Mulroney. The Soviet President and the Canadian Prime Minister both rule nations torn by internal discord.

Plagued by troubles in the Soviet republics, Mr Gorbachov's miseries are certain to be compounded by the election of Mr Boris Yeltsin as President of the Russian Federation.

Mr Mulroney's problem is the growth of separatism in the French-speaking province of Quebec, resulting from a renewed outbreak of hostilities over the Canadian Constitution.

Instead of the Yeltsin phenomenon, the thorns in the side of the Canadian Prime Minister are three provincial premiers. A deadline of June 23 has been set by which all 10 provinces have to ratify the Meech Lake accord, bringing Quebec, which has a quarter of Canada's 25 million population, into the national constitution. Quebec has been isolated from the rest of the country, constitutionally speaking, since 1982.

Yet Mr Clyde Wells, Mr Frank McKenna and Mr Gary Filmon, the premiers of Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Manitoba respectively, still refuse to ratify the accord. Among other things, they are nervous about the implications of a provision in the Meech Lake accord which would recognize Quebec as a "distinct society" within Canada.

On the very eve of Mr Gorbachov's visit, Mr Mulroney concluded a whirlwind round of one-on-one meetings in Ottawa with all the premiers, designed to lay the groundwork for a compromise. He appears to have had limited success. Now he is considering calling a meeting of the 11 prime ministers in a last-ditch effort to save Meech Lake.

Some observers believe that Canada's own serious problems in regard to national unity will undermine the impact of Mr Mulroney's planned intervention with Mr Gorbachov on behalf of the Baltic republics.

Berlin's recruits fall out of step

From ANNE McELVOY IN LEHNITZ

OUTSIDE the Volkarmee base in Lehnitz, north of East Berlin, the regimental motto announces itself in comic defiance of changed times: "Our relationship with the Soviet Union — the touchstone of our revolutionary activity."

The new recruits to the First Artillery Regiment "Rudolf Gypner" look distinctly unwilling to defend the failed revolution, or anything else for that matter, as they slouch back from their swearing-in ceremony complaining that their uniforms are too tight and their boots are killing them.

The current intake of conscripts is the first to have had the choice of non-military service when they were called up at the beginning of the year. They are also the first generation of East German soldiers to enjoy the spoils of military glasnost under the new Defence Minister, Herr Rainer Eppelmann, who is something of an oddity even in Eastern Europe — a pacifist vicar who was once imprisoned for his refusal to do national service.

The new recruits are allowed to return home every night instead of once a week, and freed from the mandatory wearing of uniform at all times which used to make East Germany look as if it were under constant occupation by its own troops. The liberalizations were introduced in the certain knowledge that without them the Army would have even more perilously under-staffed than it already is. The mass exodus of young people last year, the defection of disgruntled troops to the West German Army and Herr Eppelmann's cuts have left Lehnitz with only a third of its former staff.

Private Martin Riedel, a factory worker, aged 22, said that he chose national service because it would have taken longer to find a "just alternative" and he "just wanted to get it over with". He berated the poor quality of food and the officers, "turncoats every one of them: they all stood up for the regime and now they are preaching preparation for German unity". No, he felt no sense of identity with the Army. "It's just a transition, isn't it?"

His neighbour, Private Roland Bahr, was canner in his reasoning. He said he chose the Army because East German non-military service was not recognized by West Germany, and he was scared of being called up again after reunification.

All are dissatisfied with their low salary of 250 Marks (£90) a month but happy at their treatment. "My mates who were in before said that the officers were treated like gods. We can argue with ours," says Private Bahr.

The stentorian discipline which made the Volkarmee the envied jewel in the Warsaw Pact crown is in disarray. One feels almost sorry for the officers. At some bases they complain that they cannot persuade their men to get up in the mornings if it is raining.

Captain Peter Bley said that morale was high because conditions are more liberal than ever before, but motivation is elusive. "Their first question is: 'Why is there still an East German army when everything is collapsing?' and their second is: 'Who are we supposed to be fighting?' We need all party members — we had to be to get our posts, and most of us believed in the defence of socialism. That is hard for this generation to accept."

Hurd attacks Jewish settlement

By ANDREW McEWEEN IN LONDON AND ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

MR DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday attacked the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories and called for dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. His remarks on the eve of a visit to Jordan and Saudi Arabia will be seen in the Arab world as criticism of Jerusalem.

Mr Hurd said the cause of the tension "lies in the unjust and unsustainable position in the occupied territories which could be made worse by the settlement of Jews". While Soviet Jews had a right to leave the Soviet Union, "it is not a right to settle in other people's lands in the occupied territories and... East Jerusalem". He also criticized the lack of dialogue between Israel and Palestinians. "It is really not acceptable to say that it is not possible for the Israelis to sit down with Palestinians."

Mr Hurd is to hold talks with King Hussein in Amman

on Thursday, and in a speech later is expected to describe the settlements in the occupied territories as "unacceptable and illegal". However, in his talks with the King, the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister, he will emphasize the need to tone down public statements on the situation. There were fierce verbal attacks on Israel by Arab leaders at their summit in Baghdad, prompted by murders of Palestinians.

Mr Hurd's remarks did not mark a change of policy, but the timing was intended to put pressure on Israel.

Meanwhile, Warsaw has put its airport on anti-terrorist alert after the threatening declarations adopted at the Arab League summit in Baghdad against Soviet Jewish emigration using the Polish capital as a transit point.

Since Israel established diplomatic relations with the new European democracies — Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia — complex manoeuvring has been under way to ferry thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. The Palestinians and their supporters, claiming that Israel is using the influx of Jews to populate the occupied West Bank, are furious with the East European states.

The Soviet Union has no diplomatic ties with Israel and there are no direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv, Romania, which was the only communist state not to break off diplomatic relations with Israel, was the traditional link between Moscow and Tel Aviv, but Bucharest airport is no longer regarded as a secure transit point by the Israelis.

The Hungarian Malev airline had received several bomb threats when it tried to launch an airlift operation earlier this year and, for a while, interrupted its charter services to Tel Aviv. Warsaw has been gearing up for a big airlift next month. At the

moment Lot, the Polish airline, operates four scheduled flights from Warsaw and the Israeli airline, El Al, a further two, transporting about 1,000 people to Israel a week.

Charter flights are being tentatively started and should, despite the risk to Arab-Israeli relations, go into full operation in the next few weeks. Some 120,000 Jews are expected to leave the Soviet Union this year, a huge logistic operation beyond the capacity of any single airport. Finland is also helping to transport the emigrés from Moscow.

Other Jews, weary of the long wait for a seat on a flight to Israel, have been making their own way from the Soviet Union to Warsaw. About 100 arrive every week. They can be seen at the provincial markets selling their belongings for dollars. One Soviet emigré bought a lorry, drove it to Poland and sold it to finance his trip.



Soviet Jewish immigrants disembarking joyfully at Ben Gurion airport after their flight from eastern Europe

Yeltsin win is lesson in political survival

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev's plane was already in the air bound for Canada and America yesterday when the news came through that Mr Boris Yeltsin, Mr Gorbachev's fiercest critic, had triumphed in becoming President of the Russian Federation. It was hardly the farewell present the Soviet leader wanted.

Mr Yeltsin's election gives him control of the fate of 145 million people and the heartland of the Soviet Union, territory stretching from Finland to the Bering Straits, opposite Alaska, the most northerly of the United States. His election also gives Mr Yeltsin, aged 59, a platform from which to challenge Mr Gorbachev and his reform "half measures".

Mr Yeltsin's triumph was an astonishing political comeback. In *Against the Grain*, his autobiography, Mr Yeltsin recalls that, when he was pushed out of the Politburo three years ago, Mr Gorbachev "told me to bear in mind that

he was not going to let me back into politics". Mr Yeltsin adds: "It did not occur to him that he had created and put in motion a set of democratic processes under which the words of the General Secretary had ceased to be the word of a dictator ... the people might think otherwise."

The people did think otherwise, and yesterday the Russian parliament bowed to overwhelming popular pressure. Mr Yeltsin is regarded by many as almost too candid and too prone to emotion, but he radiates authority and charisma. "The people have put their trust in him," said one ecstatic Muscovite waving the flag of Old Russia outside the Kremlin. There was not a hammer and sickle in sight.

"If he repays our trust he could be Soviet president before long," he added.

After being sacked as party boss in Moscow for his populist style, which involved taking buses with ordinary workers and personally investigating corruption, Mr Yeltsin was given a lowly job as deputy chairman of the party's construction committee.

Then, just more than a year ago, despite attempts to block his nomination, Mr Yeltsin was elected by an overwhelming majority to the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Parliament, in the first free election for 70 years.

Shortly afterwards a campaign against him began in the Soviet press, which accused him of having drunk too much on a tour of America and ridiculed him for claiming that somebody tried to kill him by pushing him into the Moscow river (an episode he has still not satisfactorily explained).

Yet ordinary people continued to admire him for his blunt style and his forthright opposition to decades of Soviet misrule. As Mr Yeltsin has himself observed, his emergence as a reformist seems to bear little relation to his origins as the son of a collective farmer in the Urals, or his orthodox career as a construction engineer and subsequently as a party apparatchik of the kind he now despises.

"How is it that a system perfected over the years, specifically designed to select only people of a certain type, should have suddenly failed so badly as to choose Yeltsin?" he once asked.

Mr Yeltsin was born on February 1, 1931 in the village of Butko in the Sverdlovsk region in the southern Urals. His father, by his own account, was "rough and quick-tempered" just as his grandfather had been, and "no doubt they passed these characteristics on to me". Mr Yeltsin admits to a rebellious childhood, during which he often played pranks. He studied construction engineering at the Urals Polytechnic, and joined the Communist Party in 1961.

He became a full-time party official in 1968 in Sverdlovsk (formerly Ekaterinburg), and was made a Central Committee secretary in Moscow in 1985, when Mr Gorbachev brought him to the Soviet capital to help launch a new campaign of reform after the stagnation of earlier regimes. Mr Yeltsin became head of the party in the city of Moscow in late 1985, and from 1986 to 1987 was a non-voting member of the Politburo.

Then came his abrupt dismissal, followed by his return as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet in 1989 and to the Russian Federation parliament in the spring of this year as a representative from Sverdlovsk.

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Iran warms to peace overtures

Baghdad — In a swift response to Iraq's new peace overtures, Iran yesterday said it would welcome a meeting between President Rafsanjani and President Saddam Hussein if Baghdad gave proof of its sincerity (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Tehran's remarkably agreeable stand came in a statement by Mr Mehdi Karrubi, President of the Iranian Parliament, 24 hours after the Iraqi leader said that Baghdad always wanted peace and that Iraq's peaceful intentions were illustrated by a recent exchange of letters with Iran.

Visas scrapped

Britain and East Germany agreed yesterday to abolish visa requirements between the two countries.

Aid budget cut

Geneva — the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has been forced to slash its current programme budget by £44 million, so "eliminating all but life-saving activities", because of the shortfall in contributions.

Nuclear test

Stockholm — Seismic signals from a presumed underground nuclear explosion at Lop Nur in north-west China have been recorded in Sweden, the Swedish Defence Research Establishment said. (Reuters)

New premier

Taipei — Taiwan's Parliament approved the appointment of Mr Hau Pei-tsun as Prime Minister after a day of violent protests. (Reuters)

Royal dissent

Oslo — Norway decided that future royal sons will no longer have automatic first right to the throne. (Reuters)

Election victory

Rosau — Dominica's Freedom Party led by the conservative Prime Minister Miss Eugenia Charles was returned to power in general elections. (AFP)

Nepal parties

Kathmandu — Two former Prime Ministers of Nepal, Mr Surya Bahadur Thapa and Mr Lokendra Bahadur Chand, both once activists of Nepal's partyless panchayat system, announced the creation of two separate political parties. (AFP)

Walesa turns tables on striking rail workers

FROM REUTERS IN WARSAW

MR LECH Walesa, the Solidarity leader, branded former communist union leaders as gangsters and demagogues, as he persuaded strikers to call off a national rail stoppage. Polish newspapers reported yesterday.

The Solidarity daily *Gazeta Wyborcza* carried a dramatic account of Mr Walesa's midnight dash to the coastal city of Slupsk on Sunday, where he persuaded strike leaders and former communist unionists backing them to suspend their protest. The paper said Walesa told the former communists that they deserved to be dragged away by Zomo riot police — the force used to stamp out Solidarity strikes and protests in the 1980s.

"Zomo should drag you out of here, as it dragged me out when you were ruling, and

then you'd sing a different tune. So let's end this rubbish," Mr Walesa was quoted as saying. He accused the leaders of the All Poland Trade Union Alliance of supporting an illegal strike outside trade union structures, and of bypassing official negotiating procedures. "Your methods are gangster methods, and they're finished for good," Mr Walesa said.

● **Solidarity victories:** Solidarity candidates swept big cities, including Warsaw, in municipal elections in Poland's first fully free poll in 50 years, according to partial results published yesterday.

Representatives of Mr Lech Walesa's union captured more than 85 per cent of the municipal council seats in large cities, according to a report in the *Gazeta*. (AFP)



Taste of friendship: The Princess Royal yesterday sampling goats' milk from a bowl proffered as a traditional sign of welcome by a tribal elder in the Siberian village of Arbizhil in the Buryat autonomous republic. The Princess, who is in the Soviet Union on an official tour, the first by a member of the royal family, was apparently ignorant of the fact that the traditional tribal response is to sprinkle the milk on to the ground

Coalition formed to smooth path of reunification

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

WEST Germany's Government and opposition yesterday formed an uncomfortable "grand coalition". Publicly, its task is to negotiate additional improvements to the treaty on economic, currency and social union between the two Germanies, but its real, unpublished, purpose is to allow both sides to score electoral points in the run-up to the general election in December.

In the next few weeks experts from both sides will meet in three special committees to develop ideas for protecting East Germany from the environmental and social consequences of currency union, with the agreed ideas then passed to the parties' leaderships for approval.

The coalition was formed after a rare political meeting between Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor and leader of the Christian Democrats, and Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, leader of the opposition Social Democrat. Not present was the convalescent Herr Oskar Lafontaine, the Social Democrats' designated candidate to stand against Herr Kohl next December, who has sent shock waves through his party by insisting on rejecting the economic treaty in its present

form. He threatened last week to withdraw as the party's candidate if it did not oppose the treaty, despite far and away most of the West German electorate being strongly in favour of unity.

Other Social Democrat leaders are, in fact, less than happy with the idea of being held responsible for preventing implementation of the treaty on July 2 as planned. They fear this would lead to another wave of settlers from the East, and that their party would then be blamed for an increase in social problems just before the election.

Herr Lafontaine, still recovering from the near-fatal wound he received in an assassination attempt last month, is taking a typically high-risk gamble in an attempt to deprive Herr Kohl of the advantage gained from his prominent role in speeding reunification. He has become a prophet of doom, warning of high unemployment in both countries, a ruined environment and soaring inflation, the economic danger Germans fear most. He has said that unless there is special help for East German companies to face free-market competition, millions will be thrown out of work, starting a new exodus to the West.

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WE'RE FLYING BETTER THAN EVER

Does Labour need Owen?

Martin Jacques

David Owen is thinking aloud again, pondering his future and making overtures to Labour. Such musings are not new. Indeed, they have become a minor sub-plot of Mrs Thatcher's third term. What he says, though, should be taken at face value. He is a man in a corner with very little to offer. He does not know what to do, because it is not clear what he can do.

His best bet is some arrangement with the Labour Party. The problem is that there is little he can do for it. Undoubtedly his blessing would set the seal on Labour's move into the centre — but he has virtually done that already. Moreover, many of the public already believe that Labour has been transformed. Labour is unlikely to risk any gesture towards him for so little reward, when he could cause a lot of hassle. That is not how things work, certainly not in the world of Labour politics. David Owen, it seems, is on his way out of politics altogether, following his erstwhile colleagues in the Gang of Four.

There is, of course, a deep irony here. The split in the Labour Party in 1981 and the formation of the SDP radically changed the shape of British politics — but not the way the protagonists intended. The third force did not usurp Labour's place as the second party. Instead it transformed it. The legacy of 1981 is the new-model Labour Party.

The usual measure of the SDP's impact is the shift in Labour's policies. Compare Labour's policy review with the Alliance manifesto in 1983. The resemblance is uncanny. On Europe, the free market, defence and trade union legislation, Labour has aped the Alliance. But the resemblance does not explain the causal process. The ways of the world are far more complicated than such resemblances suggest.

The split in 1981 was a necessary condition for Labour's subsequent transformation. It allowed a new internal configuration. With the departure of a large section of the right, the left-wing was, for the first time, in the ascendant. But soon it became divided. The revolution that ensued after 1983 was led by one part of it, the soft left. But Kinnock and Co could never have occupied this ground had it not been for the 1981 split.

The legacy was a clean slate. The ritualized divisions and intense factionalism of the previous decade no longer had any meaning. If the split had not taken place, the dominance of the centre-right would have continued, the left would have remained united, the degree of political movement would have been far less, and a more Wilsonesque leadership would have resulted.

The SDP's second major impact on Labour again had little direct bearing on policy. In 1983 the SDP came within a whisker of replacing Labour as the second party in terms of the total number of votes. In the early months of 1987 it again looked about to achieve this breakthrough, although in the general election of that year it fell back slightly, with faithful consequences for its future.

The effect of all this on Labour was profound. With its position as the second party of British politics in question, it was forced to stare reality in the face. It learnt the hard way that Labour could govern only if it was a party of the centre as well as the left, of the progressive middle classes as well as the working class. This was a lesson it had learnt in 1945, slowly forgotten in the 1970s, and thrown overboard during the period of Bennite madness.

So what of policy? It is certainly true that Labour has now come to occupy much of the ground that was once the preserve of the SDP. In that sense, the Owenite stance on policy has been vindicated. But it is not clear that the SDP was the main reason for this. Two other factors weigh equally, or perhaps rather more heavily.

The most important single factor in Labour's policy reorientation was surely the impact of Thatcherism. The starting point in this sense is not the SDP or Dr Owen but Mrs Thatcher herself. Indeed, one might add that Dr Owen's main claim to originality within the Alliance was his recognition of the strength of Thatcherism. Secondly, Labour's passage towards the centre has been drawn very heavily on the example of mainstream European social democracy, which has for long held the positions that Labour is now embracing.

One other thought persists. Just how novel was the SDP anyway? For the most part it combined two things: the ideas of Labour revisionism (notably on Europe and the market), which were brought to the SDP by the refugees from the Labour Party and so by definition were not new, and a recognition of at least part of the Thatcherite agenda. The one really new element was the advocacy of constitutional reform. The SDP, thus, had only a very modest claim to novelty.

At the beginning of a new decade, there is a distinctly 1980s feel about the SDP, with more than a touch of the 1970s. As Labour moves on to its new ground, that is worth remembering. Is Labour new enough? Will the electorate feel that it is sufficiently of the 1990s? Is it still too much beholden to the past, albeit a centrist, rather than a left-wing past?

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

On July 7, 1927, the eve of the Lord's cricket match against Harrow, J.M. Barrie, creator of *Peter Pan*, gave a speech at Eton College. A month earlier, the Provost of Eton, M.R. James, had challenged him over lunch to disprove the "terrible indictment" that James Hook, the pirate captain, "was a great Etonian but not a good one".

Barrie believed Hook to be quite the opposite — a good Etonian but not a great one — and in his speech he set out to prove it. The speech is little known, but, in the light of yesterday's festivities, might serve as an awful lesson to many Etonians unable to shake off their past.

In this speech, Barrie revealed many details of Captain Hook's Eton career that were not mentioned in the play. Oddly enough, he said, Hook had been a dry bob at Eton, hating the touch of water, a hatred that was to beset him throughout his adult life. His contemporaries recalled a gluttonous boy. Barrie claimed to have been told by one that Hook "oozed so unpleasantly through his clothes, that in the Wall game, if you pushed him against the wall you smeared it with him." He was a member of the Eton Society, or Pop, as it is better known, though Barrie acknowledged that "Hook's election was a great surprise to other members", some of whom felt that he "must have manipulated the ballot box".

Here begins the mystery. Barrie records that the page in the books of the society recording Hook's election had been mysteriously destroyed. At first, Barrie blamed this either on autograph hunters or on the Eton authorities, who might have thought "his subsequent career (meteoric as it was) reflected no credit on the school". In fact, neither was the case.

A month or two before Hook's death in the jaws of a crocodile, a Mr G.F. Jaspurin, an Old Etonian given to wandering Eton's streets, spotted "a shadowy figure sitting motionless on the college wall" in Pop uniform, recognizable by his long curls "like black candles about to melt" and by the iron hook that protruded from the sleeve of his right arm. "I do not

merely mean that Etonian was written all over him," Barrie quoted Jaspurin as saying, "there was something even more than that, as if... he was two Etonians rolled by the magnanimous God into one."

Jaspurin felt a strong sense of melancholy exuding from this figure. "It was mournfully obvious that he was gazing with peeling eyes through the darkness of his present to the innocence of his past, from the monster he had become on the Spanish Main to the person he had been at Eton, and the effect was heightened by the unclean tears that crawled down his face."

A passing policeman, seeing this solitary figure on the wall, asked him if he was an OE. "No," said Hook. Barrie explains this denial as being "all he could do for the honour of the school".

Jaspurin then lost sight of Hook, but others observed him wandering, ghost-like, around Dutchman's and Agar's Plough. At some time after midnight, Hook managed to break into the premises of the Eton Society, there to destroy all evidence that he had once been a member.

"To obliterate the memory of himself from the tabernacle he had fouled was all this erring son of Eton could do for his beloved," Barrie explained, adding, "In that one moment was he not a good Etonian?" Captain James Hook left his few meagre possessions to the school. These included, said Barrie, hundreds of copies, much-thumbed, of the *Eton Chronicle*, to which he had been a faithful subscriber throughout his years of piracy. (This is curiously reminiscent of that other Etonian black sheep, Guy Burgess, upon whose death a dozen Old Etonian ties were found in a drawer of his Moscow flat). The governors, mindful of any scandal, refused the legacy.

The above account had been printed yesterday, the return of many a guilt-ridden Etonian might have been prevented. I suspect, however, that if the president of the Eton Society finds time to peruse his logbook this morning, he may find that quite a number of the more recent pages have, quite inexplicably, vanished overnight.

Robert Service thinks co-operation is Gorbachov's best response to the newly-elected Yeltsin

Taming Russia's headlong reformer

Boris Yeltsin's election as president of the Russian republic within the Soviet Union is yet another problem in a week of crises for Mikhail Gorbachov. The list of problems has grown daily: Armenia, panic buying in Moscow, German reunification, and now, not for the first time, Yeltsin.

Yeltsin's success puts an end to what might be called Gorbachov's Gaullist gambit. De Gaulle aimed to place the French presidency above party-political struggles and strove for a strong communion between president and people, implying that formal institutions were an impediment to this end. Politics was treated as a grubby trade and, if a policy required the sanction of popular assent, a referendum would be called. Friends of Gorbachov have indicated that he has paid attention to French presidential methods; and, in the first three months of this year, he made a clear effort as president to rise above both party and government. He continued to humiliate the party and its personnel even though it was they who put him in power in 1985. Like de

Gaulle, he "astonished them with his ingratitude", repeatedly rubbing the party's actions since the mid-1920s and downgrading its ideology. Simultaneously, he has sought a more elevated personal authority.

Following his confirmation as president (altering the constitution in the process, a Gaullist hallmark) he surrounded himself with hand-picked advisers in a Presidential Council. Some came from the party's Politburo, but several party leaders — notably Yegor Ligachev — were excluded. While his prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, was included, Gorbachov did little to rescue him when Ryzhkov was attacked over his government's record by speakers at the Congress of People's Deputies earlier this year.

But Gorbachov's ambitious strategy quickly fell apart. Last week's announcement that a referendum would be held on food price increases was designed to prepare the way for popularly-sanctioned economic reforms. The people were to be consulted by the president. The immediate result was panic buying, and Boris

Yeltsin, who was told by Gorbachov in 1987 that his political career was dead, has come back, Lazarus-like, into the reckoning.

The brief Gaullist interlude is over. The proposed justification for Gorbachov's extensive presidential powers was that the Soviet Union was in danger of shipwreck and needed a strong arm at the tiller. At the Congress of People's Deputies, several of Gorbachov's critics approved his confirmation as president without a preliminary universal-suffrage election. They did so on the grounds that the country faced civil war, and that a strong president could push through the radical economic reforms which were vital in themselves and would assist in defusing other problems, domestic and international.

Yet Gorbachov drew back from the brink, proposing only half-measures for the economy. Even those, however, have reduced Moscow shops to chaos. Although Gorbachov has a high reputation in the West as a manipulator of Soviet public opinion, it is largely undeserved. In reality he is good at public relations, at putting his

case; but he has been poor at gauging the Soviet popular mood. His recent misjudgement is the latest vivid example.

His other mistake, as the difficulties of his presidential role became apparent in April and May, was to alienate fellow political reformers in his own party. He declared that "democratization" should have limits and that there were to be no "factions" in the party. Once the party line was established, it was to be accepted by everyone. Furthermore, the abandonment of the party's constitutionally-guaranteed monopoly of power was not intended to lead to a multi-party parliamentary free-for-all. Gorbachov has been defending the Leninist party's "vanguard role".

It is hard to understand how he thinks he can reconcile such a position, practically and intellectually, with the multi-party politics emerging in the Soviet Union. He now has to live with the election to the Russian republic's presidency of a radical whom he has spurned.

Yeltsin wants to move faster towards a market economy and to

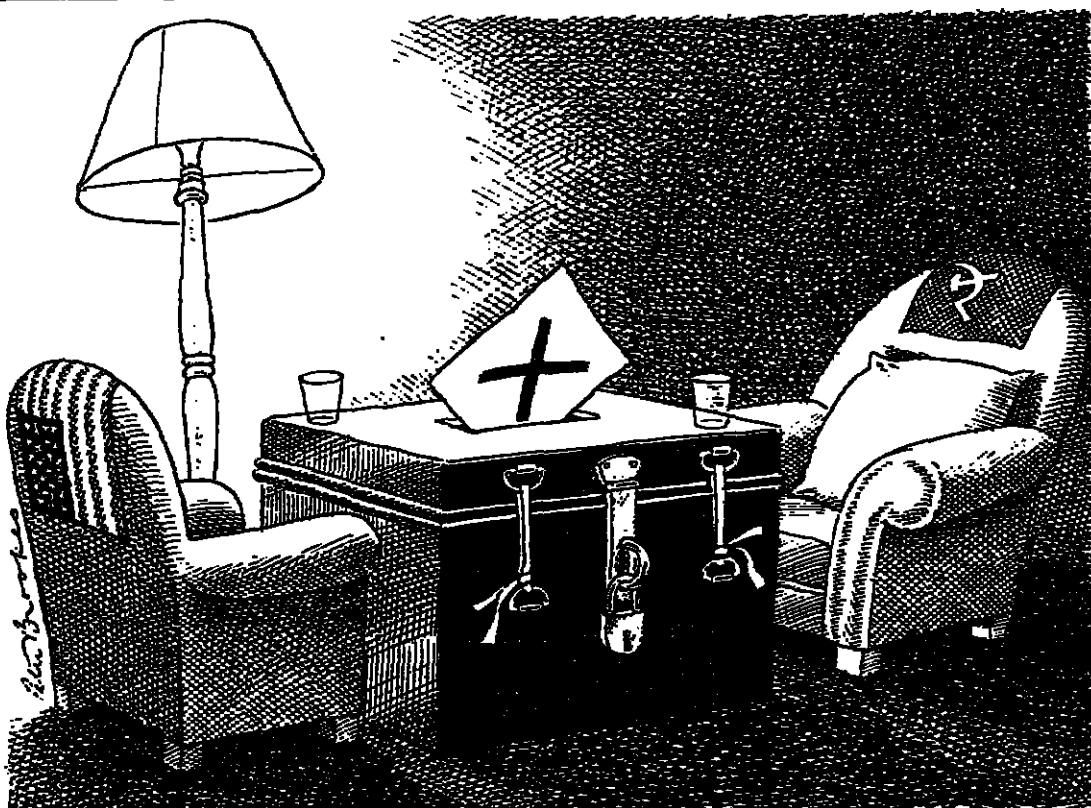
allow easier secession from the Soviet Union for discontented national republics. He is admired by Muscovites for the campaigns against corruption he pursued when he was party leader in the city. His rallies fill whole parks. His claim that any economic reforms should not begin with financial devices that hit the ordinary Soviet consumer evokes widespread sympathy. But he has yet to say precisely how he would set about implementing reforms if he and not Mr Gorbachov, were Soviet president. The Yeltsin programme has not been made public. Perhaps it does not exist.

Mr Gorbachov's best means of taming his rival is to make peace with him. Yeltsin has to be deprived of his soap-box pedestal and martyr's crown. The two men have the ability to ruin each other. If Gorbachov cannot play the role of a Soviet de Gaulle, Yeltsin should not fool himself into thinking that he can successfully take the part.

The author is Reader in Russian History at the School of Slavonic and European Studies, London University.

Scale the summit and win esteem where it counts

Peter Stothard, in Washington, sees domestic voters on both sides the principal target of this week's talks



stimming with the presidential press secretary who a few months before had called him a "drug-store cowboy".

Mr Gorbachov is now judged to be "for real", joining Chancellor Kohl, Mrs Thatcher and Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, in winning this ultimate Bush accolade. It has been said here (only just in jest) that if George Bush sees his role as helping to re-elect every ailing member of this club, he will soon be as big a threat to national democracy as Stalin.

Some on the right still wish that summits — particularly arms control summits — did not exist. They point out that the need to sign agreements at regular intervals inevitably forces compromise, that American negotiators are the more natural compromisers, and that James Baker, the Secretary of State, is the most natural compromiser of all.

The traditional Soviet variation on Mr Bush's "getting-to-know-you" theme consists not so much of club loyalty as on the cruder game of ascertaining how much you can push your opposite number around. Mr Bush constantly assures conservatives that he is no push-over for Gorbachov, but not all are convinced.

Modern summits certainly encourage the seizing of short-term opportunities. Mr Baker has made it clear that even given the uncertainties about Mr Gorbachov's survival, and successor, he would rather have a Start treaty signed and delivered than the promise of a free Lithuania. Small wonder that there is an incipient intellectual fashion here for rejecting the notion of an interdependent world run by diplomats, in favour of the more ancient practice of amoral wrangling between the powerful.

But most people feel comfortable with regular talks. Summits are infinitely variable events, flattering to the participants and reassuring to the neighbours. The brutal battle of wills between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov at Reykjavik is a salutary reminder that blood can still be drawn.

Whatever the sceptics may say, the current hope in the White House is that this summit will become part of the international landscape, to be climbed in future simply because they are there.

one, although like that clever French attempt to frighten the English, Eisenhower's gesture was something of a failure: the US side mumbled diffidently about the "economic humanism" of capitalism and Mr Khrushchev snapped back that "only the grave can correct a hunchback".

Conservative critics of the summit process, worn down by America's seemingly endless compromises on arms control, are still professing the virtues of showing Mr Gorbachov the fruits of a free society. The Soviet leader has disappointed them by his limited itinerary, but there is hope that he may learn some lessons even in his chosen venue on the Minnesota farm belt, Democrat territory that is far from hardline capitalist.

A second argument for superpower summits is the great political benefit they bestow. President Gorbachov has a huge need to show himself as an international asset to the hungry shoppers and economic malcontents at home. And there are

millions of American votes at stake, too. The White House had hoped that Mr Gorbachov would perhaps make a mid-term election tour of Republican marginal. Indeed, the only conservative Republicans opposed to the tour next week are those in Minnesota itself, where the benefits will assuredly go to his Democrat hosts.

The world will not hang on every summit move this week, as it did during the Kennedy-Khrushchev encounter in 1961. When tension was high, humiliation was always a possibility, and American politicians took a risk by sharing the summit table. But the better the international climate, the safer is the supply of votes.

Such risks as remain can be controlled by White House "spin doctors" to whom manipulating expectations is as automatic as breathing. Deliberately conflicting signals are given about whether, for example, a Start treaty on reducing long-range nuclear mis-

siles is to be initiated in draft, agreed in principle or given some other perverse kiss of diplomatic life. The aim is to confuse the American people and the Soviet negotiators — in that order.

The electoral opportunities of summits are close to President Bush's heart. He is not being wholly cynical. He genuinely believes that world leaders can be members of the same club, and that people who eat the same food and exchange jokes are less likely to go home and nuke each other — also more likely to help each other at the polls.

Confidence in the club members needs to be constantly renewed, and here again the summit process is better than irregular peace conferences and the formality of state occasions. In 1987, Mr Gorbachov gave Mr Bush a close-up view of his style by leaping out of his car to pump hands among the crowds on Connecticut Avenue. The bond was sealed at the informal Malta summit when the Soviet leader amiably discussed

among the party's MPs. Sir Cyril Smith for one is highly critical of what he sees as a move towards style rather than substance. "Our party has more important things to worry about than its logo, and I certainly would not spend any money on designing a new one when we have people in the party who could have done the same job." The design will be kept under wraps until the party conference, when it will be unveiled by Ashdown. The brief insists that the design must reflect "the true purpose of the Liberal Democrat Party". That may explain why it is taking so long.

good logo... I think it stands for lost deposit.

Washing light bluer

Nowhere is safe from the attentions of the hard sell merchants, even academia. As part of its attempt to raise £250 million to maintain its pre-eminence as a centre of educational excellence, Cambridge University is the latest to fall prey to advertising. A committee of marketing experts is being set up by the Cambridge Development Office led by graduates Robin Wight (chairman of the advertising agency WCRS Matthews

Marcantonio) and Martin Sorrell (head of the WPP group). "Cambridge is an academic brand," says Wight, "set to compete against other academic brands. It's a communication being, not just a pile of bricks and mortar."

But after 700 years without such advice, what is it that the "brand" has not achieved through its academic reputation and which only the professionals can provide? The Development Office says naturally pre-eminent Cambridge's manifold qualities, but says it still needs selling. The first step is likely to involve direct marketing aimed at graduates, to encourage donations, with TV advertising to follow.

But despite the incongruity of the move, Cambridge has never been a stranger to selling itself. Until 1917, the university was self-financing, and relied heavily on its own fund-raising. But if the new campaign is not entirely unprecedented, the University Development Office concedes that it is unusual. The last such campaign was run in 1899. Heaven knows what marketing men were known as in those days.

Labour's high command spends much time collecting Militant Tendency documents to scour for names suitable for expulsion. Here's one it may have overlooked: 11 Militants conveniently listed in batting order on the scorecard of last week's cricket match against Tribune. Coincidentally, Bob McKee, captain and opening batsman, was expelled by Labour's national executive two days after the match. Although Tribune lost by three wickets, it has promised not to pass the names of McKee's team-mates to Waltham Road.

More equal than others

The privileges of power that go with Boris Yeltsin's election to the presidency of the Russian Federation would bring blushes to the cheeks of the most rapacious leader in the West. A 24-hour personal bodyguard, chauffeur-driven car, country dacha, access to well-stocked shops and the chance of a luxury lifestyle are but a few of the perks on offer. But if Yeltsin accepts them, his mantle of people's champion will start to slip, and could eventually lead to his downfall.

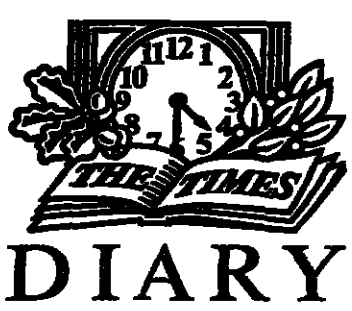
He faces other dilemmas. The bodyguard, if he accepts one, will be provided by the KGB — which only last month was rumoured to have tried to kill him by sabotaging the aircraft taking him to Spain. The story was vigorously denied, but the KGB can have no love for Yeltsin because of his pledge to abolish the entire organization if he is ever in a position to do so.

In his bestselling book *Against the Grain* — the proceeds of which went to charity — Yeltsin was scathing about the perks that go with power. In his previous job as Moscow party chief he won much support by spurning a chauffeur-driven limousine in favour of his own modest car. And he was almost a total stranger to the dacha of which he and his family had exclusive use. It had numerous bedrooms, huge and elegant reception rooms, luxury furniture, tennis courts, saunas, marble panelling, en-suite bathrooms and two "war rooms". Its previous occupant? Mikhail Gorbachov.

Though not quite in the league of the record company executive who turned down The Beatles, Robert McLiam Wilson can be excused a satisfied smirk after winning the *Betty Trant* award for the "best new romantic or traditional novel" at the Society of Authors' annual bash last night. The award for his novel *Ripley* Beale is a distinctly unromantic story about the daily round of a London tramp — is worth £16,000, and it is the third cash award the book has now picked up. The reason for Wilson's satisfaction? Before André Deutsch agreed to publish the novel, it was turned down by five other publishers.

Open season

When David Conville became artistic director of the Open Air Theatre in Regents Park 28 years ago, his predecessor, Robert Atkins, cautioned him: "You'll get a crack in your neck looking at the weather." "It's true," said Conville before the opening night of *Much Ado About Nothing* yesterday. "I'm absolutely certain of a fine night only when I see the television weathermen queuing for tickers." Good food and drink is needed to sustain an audience through an English summer evening — usually cold and wet, remember? — and Conville's first innovation on taking over in 1962 was mulling wine. Clement Freud, who had offered to do the catering, did not think mulling wine was a good idea. Having made an announcement to the press, Conville insisted, and says: "It's still very popular around 10 o'clock on a chilly night."



the weather are the distractions of animal life. Geese nesting on the dressing room roof, mating herons, swarming bees, lions roaring from the nearby London Zoo and hedgehogs playing with tin cans under the stage are now all regarded as unavoidable noises off.

Semiotics

Paddy Ashdown has ordered a flashy new logo for the Liberal Democrats in the hope that it will do for his party what the red rose has done for Labour. But his optimism is not shared by all the party faithful, who are expecting more than a mere marketing device to recapture the muddled middle ground of politics from the remains of the SDP. Design consultants Fitch & Co have been called in by the party to revamp the present logo, a gold diamond bearing the words Social and Liberal Democrats. The word Social is naturally disappearing, but any further changes are still secret.

The cost of the final product, expected to be at least £10,000 — which is not much by corporate standards, but a huge sum in Lib Dem circles — has raised eyebrows



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

BUSINESS AS USUAL

President Bush has already struck a realistic note before the US-Soviet summit. Rebuffing questions about Mr Gorbachov's domestic vulnerability, he described him as a man who has "survived" and added that there was little point "trying to figure out how long a leader in any country will be there". One thing is now abundantly clear about East-West summits. Even if the West could contribute to easing the Soviet Union's economic predicament, no Western policy aimed at ensuring stability in Europe can be predicated on the survival either of Mr Gorbachov or of his policies.

Mr Gorbachov failed yesterday to prevent Mr Boris Yeltsin's election as president of the Russian Republic. There is mounting evidence that the main pressure on Mr Gorbachov stems not from military hardliners, but from those seeking to speed up political change. Nor do analogies between the destabilizing impact of the 1919 Versailles Treaty on Weimar Germany, and the risks of "humiliating" the Soviet Union today bear close inspection.

Mr Ryzhkov may have lamented last week that the Government had "no more gold to buy grain". Western bankers are certainly tightening their terms, and Soviet credit ratings have slipped on the London market. But the Soviet Union, unlike inter-war Germany, is rich in resources and immensely strong militarily. There is no reason for the West to succour a giant whose economic wounds are self-inflicted and which is currently trying to bring puny Lithuania to its knees.

The Soviet Union is still the strongest military power in Europe. Even if the Union disintegrated, Mr Yeltsin's Russia itself would retain that status. The "German Question" remains its mesmeric hold on Moscow and will dominate this summit as none since the end of the Second World War. No amount of turbulence within the Soviet Union can divert attention from the central issue of the balance of power in Europe. Mr Gorbachov accepts German reunification, but only on certain conditions. He will ask for "solid international guarantees" that Germany "will always pursue peaceful policies". He insists, publicly, that the Soviet Union views Nato as a symbol of

confrontation and will "never" permit it "a leading role in building a new Europe".

But how to take this position forward? Mr Gorbachov's pre-summit formula for German membership in Nato innocuously proposes putting Germany on the same basis as France, as participant in Nato's political machinery but outside its unified command structure. He may appeal to German sentiment by suggesting a ceiling on troop strengths in a united Germany and the removal of all foreign forces and nuclear weapons from German soil.

Bonn has already established its own direct links with the Kremlin, and might well agree to German troop ceilings and even to the removal of nuclear weapons. Western anxiety at the prospect of West Germany's leaders being tempted to stir the shades of Molotov-Ribbentrop and strike their own deal with Moscow may tempt Mr Bush to compromise. But nothing has changed in Soviet military doctrine to justify American acquiescence in the neutralization of Germany. The best that might be offered is a concession on a transitional Soviet presence in East Germany.

Mr Gorbachov has suggested that, if Germany remains in Nato, Moscow would be forced to review its commitment to reducing conventional forces in Europe (CFE). Such a disagreement holding up a CFE treaty would hurt the Soviet Union more than the West. The separate conclusion of a Strategic Arms Reduction treaty would have comparatively little impact on Soviet military spending, estimated to consume a fifth of Soviet national product.

A bilateral summit cannot produce final agreement on Germany's future. But this does not mean that decision on the future balance of power in Europe has shifted irrevocably to Europe. Mr Gorbachov continues publicly to accept that the United States remains a key player in Europe. Mr Bush must leave him in no doubt of this. The old Cold War certainties have become confused, but the Cold War has not finally been laid to rest. Nor will it be until the Soviet Union is a democracy living secure and contented alongside a united Germany.

MISPLACED DEFIANCE

The chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr Kenneth Baker, has been trying to dirty Labour's new moderate image by directing public attention at the association between some Labour backbenchers and the campaign to encourage non-payment of the poll tax. He is only doing his job. Those Labour MPs who flout with civil disobedience are also doing theirs, by trying to maximize the Government's present poll tax discount.

When basic principles collide, a decent and tolerant society will try to make room for those who disagree as to which should prevail. Civil disobedience can be a sensitive barometer of the health of society, giving early warning that the necessary consent from the governed to the government, on which parliamentary democracy ultimately rests, is wearing thin. The Conservative mandate to govern Scotland and to impose on the Scots a tax system which is widely resented as unfair is not so overwhelming that any challenge to it deserves no second thought.

In England and Wales the poll tax is a year younger, and therefore those eager to refuse to pay have not yet had the chance to make their obstinacy public. In due course no doubt some of the local dramas of poll tax collection in Scotland - civic dignitaries having their bank accounts frozen, elderly ladies defying the bailiffs - will also occur south of the border. There should, in principle, be more sympathy with little old ladies than with civic dignitaries, not because the latter should know better but because conscientious objection at its heroic best is a private, even solitary, affair, regardless of public opinion, regardless of the consequences.

The Martin Luthers and Thomas Mores could do no other than stand where they did

because they were under the iron command of conscience. They were prepared to hang the consequences, even if they were to be hanged for doing so. But civil disobedience on a mass scale as a political tactic within a mature democracy is less about conscience and more about diverting democratic processes into non-democratic conduits. This is a dangerous direction to go.

The obligation to pay taxes voiced by Parliament is a fundamental one, and an organized challenge to that is fundamentally undemocratic. Those who mount one must realize that they are engaged in a revolutionary activity whose logical outcome is the overthrow of the parliamentary system itself.

If anybody is forbidden by conscience to pay a tax, because they do not approve of the method by which it is levied or the purposes to which it is put (such as nuclear weapons), the debt must be discharged in some other way, not excluding the confiscation of goods or the loss of personal liberty. Such a tradition of civil disobedience is a fundamental part of a free society: the right to be free under its laws embraces the freedom to disobey those laws but accept the consequences.

The poll tax rebels, however, are going further. They are not hewing liberty from the rock of tyranny, nor even from the rock of that most opaque of modern tyrannies, the tyranny of the majority. They are abusing a great tradition of dissent as an easy and cheap route to political point-scoring. They will encourage many decent people to think they can break the law with comparative impunity as well as comparative moral security. They bring no credit to an honourable tradition of conscientious objection in Britain.

MURDER MOST FOUL?

Journalists know that their lives may be in danger when they investigate military secrets. This is especially so in regions such as the Middle East where governments, even when not actually engaged in war, are permanently ready for it. Mr Jonathan Moyle, the British editor of *Defence Helicopter World*, was sufficiently experienced when he embarked on a visit to Chile last March to be aware that he might discover facts about the trade between a wealthy Chilean arms manufacturer, Señor Carlos Cardoen, and his customer, the Iraqi Government, which both parties would prefer to remain unknown. Mr Moyle seems to have taken no unnecessary risks. He broke no laws, entered no prohibited areas, gave no hostages to fortune.

Early on March 31, however, Mr Moyle was found by a chambermaid hanging in the clothes closet of his hotel room in Santiago. A verdict of suicide was pronounced by the police, accepted by the authorities - both Chilean and British - and the case was all but forgotten, except by the dead man's family and friends. Thanks only to the moral courage of the local investigating magistrate, Señor Alejandro Solis, the Moyle file was not closed, despite the evident preference of the Santiago police for a theory of motiveless suicide.

Only after a report was broadcast on May 14 by *Channel 4 News* did the public become aware of the attitude of officials in both countries towards Mr Moyle's death. Since then, more evidence has come to light, strengthening Señor Solis in his doubt that this cheerful and talented young journalist would have killed himself, when he had a probable scoop in the bag and shortly before he was to marry his fiancée.

Señor Solis has persuaded his superiors to involve the Chilean equivalent of Scotland Yard. He may thereby have overcome the reluctance of the local police to question Señor Raúl Montesino, the press spokesman of

Industrias Cardoen SA and the last person known to have seen Mr Moyle alive. This reluctance has a political background. Señor Cardoen is a patron of the new Chilean President, Señor Patricio Aylwin.

The Pinochet era is too recent a memory for the police to have yet acquired the habit of treating powerful allies of the head of state as though they, like everyone else, were subject to the law. The new Government does seem to have grasped the importance of letting justice be seen to be done, regardless of politics.

The Moyle case, however, suggests that Señor Aylwin has a long way to go before his claim that Chile is now unequivocally subject to the rule of law deserves credence. According to the Channel 4 programme, if Mr Moyle's notes - most of which are now thought to have disappeared - were correct in their hypothesis, Señor Cardoen was hoping to export attack helicopters to Iraq. Señor Cardoen's challenge to this is that his helicopters were civilian, and not military, aircraft.

The helicopter itself is based on an American civilian design. Mr Moyle seems to have believed that it could be equipped with a weapons guidance system, Helios, built jointly by Sweden, Britain and the United States. Had Mr Moyle proved his case, all three countries would have been obliged by their own public commitments to stop this profitable trade, so depriving President Saddam Hussein of a powerful ground-attack weapon.

The Foreign Office should heed the Moyle family's protests at the British Embassy's refusal to exert pressure on Chilean authorities to treat the case as one of murder. Those responsible for Jonathan Moyle's death may well have had nothing to do with the firm of Industrias Cardoen SA or its owner. The Iraqis, however, would clearly have had a motive. Few will have confidence in Chilean justice until Jonathan Moyle's death has been thoroughly and impartially investigated.

Future of Germany's military policy

From the President of the British Atlantic Committee

Sir, Before any unthinking rush to show understanding of and support for President Gorbachov's position on Germany and Nato it is essential to identify clearly what it involves.

For Germany to follow the French example and withdraw from the integrated military structure would mean total German independence and national decision-making in all aspects of military policy; this would imply the re-creation of something like the old-style German General Staff. Might this not lead to a demand in Germany for an independent nuclear capability? Is this what Mr Gorbachov wants? The Poles, Czechs and Hungarians favour full German incorporation in the Nato Alliance presumably to avoid such developments.

On the French model, furthermore, all Nato-integrated headquarters and forces would have to leave German territory. Since there is nowhere else on the Central European mainland for them to go except the Benelux countries, the Alliance would for practical purposes cease to exist. At a time of growing uncertainty this is a loss which no country in Europe - East or West - can afford, given that Nato has always been dedicated to the establish-

Transport failings in Scotland

From Mr James D. Graham

Sir, Two recent leaders (May 17 and 21) make plain your distaste for Government interference in private industrial concerns, but how different your thunder against the Scottish steel industry and the cut-throat over the south-eastern railways. Yet the Government's transport policy is a major factor in the "failure" of Ravenscraig and the success of the Transmanche link.

It is easy to see why British Steel considers Ravenscraig a liability and the reason is its isolation because of successive governments' neglect of the Scottish transport infrastructure. The Government recently announced improvements to the motorway system. This so-called national system is no such thing: there is no motorway link between Scotland and England.

The rail link to the Channel tunnel will only run from Edinburgh, leaving virtually all of Scotland further out on the periphery of Europe. Ironically much of the equipment for building the tunnel was constructed in Glasgow, Scotland will be effectively the only part of Great Britain that is not linked by

modern transport systems to Europe.

Of course places like Motherwell look uneconomical, so erect second-hand steel works in the North-east of England and transfer the main centre for North Sea oil from Aberdeen south to the same area.

The £500 million being spent on a mainly cosmetic exercise in the South-east and London would transform the whole economic prospect of Scotland if redirected there. Yet the Government is "spending heavily on motorways in Kent" and "will benefit thousands of Kent commuters (with a rail subsidy)" while the people of Scotland suffer second-rate road and rail links that lead nowhere.

A modern transport system would make the Scottish steel industry potentially profitable within the European context, either via the Channel tunnel or using the North Sea as a natural highway if the internal infrastructure was improved. All of Scottish industry would benefit from the same transport standards as Kent.

Yours faithfully,
J. D. GRAHAM,
544 Paisley Road West,
Glasgow,
May 21.

Police and players

From the Chairman of the London Playing Fields Society

Sir, Your leading article on the police (May 23) said that:

Less stress should be placed on the conquest of crime, more on its prevention... The police must be reintegrated into the community.

This society began last year pioneering work to assist in this reintroduction. Fourteen home beat officers took part in a Football Association leaders' award course in July, 1989, at the society's Douglas Eyre Sports Centre, Walthamstow, which enabled them to take children through a Football Association soccer star scheme at their schools.

The result is that 400 school-children within the Borough of Waltham Forest have participated in such a scheme covering 23 schools, with the local police taking a leading role. The new relationships established have given the society encouragement

Tunnel issues

From Mr Stephen Plowden

Sir, Your leading article (May 21) states that £1 billion is needed to bridge the gap between the Channel tunnel's commercial costs and expected revenues. Your estimate is likely to be far too low.

Mrs Thatcher's insistence that extra money be spent to limit the environmental damage of the rail line through Kent is required by the principle of "the polluter pays". If this principle was not explicitly written into the Channel tunnel legislation, the reason may be that the Channel Tunnel Group (Eurotunnel's predecessor and parent) gave assurances in 1985 that a new rail link would not be required. If Eurotunnel has now changed its mind on this crucial point, it should not expect the taxpayer to foot the bill.

You argue, apparently, that since the Government is committed to spending heavily on motorways in Kent, it should also subsidize the rail links and the two "hugely-expensive" London cross-Channel rail terminals.

A better way of removing the anomaly in the treatment of rail and road would be to charge for the use of motorways. Another method would be a small tax added to the fare of all users of Eurotunnel's vehicle shuttle.

You say that no government "could conceivably walk away from the Channel tunnel once the digging was well under way". Why not?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PLOWDEN,
69 Albert Street, NW1.

From Mr Andrew Brice

Sir, Your leading article reads as though the Channel tunnel would only carry passengers whereas it is becoming increasingly clear that the most important function will be to carry rail freight.

British Rail are proposing to carry six million tonnes in 1993 compared with 7.2 tonnes predicted by SNCF, the French rail system. The predictions for 2003 are even more pessimistic - at 8.5 million tonnes compared with 16.4 million predicted by SNCF and 11.4 million by Eurotunnel.

Two groups, Rail Europe and Arup, have offered to construct new four-track lines to take both passengers and freight to Stratford, with passengers being taken on to King's Cross. The freight links from Stratford and Temple Mills to the rest of the UK need little improvement to be better than those proposed by British Rail and an outline scheme for progressive extension of continental-gauge lines to Scotland by early next century would make the British system a real part of the international network.

It is now time for the Government to organise an independent assessment of the three routes. It should be carried out with the help of the European Commission and this might enable European funds to be made available for such an important piece of infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. BRICE (Chairman,
North Down Rail Concern),
Limekiln House,
Hollingbourne,
Maidstone, Kent.

Historic cottages

From Mr Gavin Smith

Sir, Just what is the National Trust's policy towards historic rural cottages? In the Devil's Punch Bowl, near Hindhead, Surrey, were a farmhouse and three unrestored cottages - survivors from the "broom squires", commoners who made a living from cutting and selling the brooms of the heathlands. The Trust in its more philanthropic days had a warden at Keeper's Cottage, leased another to the Youth Hostel Association, and the third, Gnome Cottage, became a YHA family annex.

Over the last few years the Trust has sold the farmhouse for £80,000 (resold for £300,000), four

Promotion of women

From the President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, Your editorial, "Nothing like a dame" (May 18), inferred that the progress of women in some of our working sectors was still being impeded.

My institution elected its first woman member in 1922. We made little progress over the next 65 years. By contrast the rate of change over recent years has been impressive - figures for newly-qualified women chartered surveyors show 11 per cent in 1989 rising to 16 per cent in the current year. Their numbers will bring pressure to bear on many more employers to change attitudes and especially to accommodate the different work patterns of women with young families.

Even more impressive is the recent progress of women surveyors into the board rooms in both private and public sectors. No

holds are now barred to them in the surveying profession.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MALE, President,
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.

From Mrs Juliet Gordon

Sir, The Hansard Society Commission identified academic life, along with Parliament and the law, as being the least penetrable male institutions.

In academic life, promotion and recognition depend upon an unbroken service record and on a continuous stream of learned publication, a combination difficult to accommodate with rearing young.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET GORDON,
University of Southampton,
Department of Adult Education,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Neutrality of gender

From Sir Alfred Sherman

Sir, Professor Roy Lewis's letter (May 29) raises serious questions. Monstrous lies like "gender-neutral language" are based on wilful ignorance of linguistics, history and the complex mechanisms of inducing social change and the pitfalls inherent in it.

Take three languages, Turkish, Hungarian and Hebrew. The two former are totally gender-neutral, even using the same word for he and she, whereas, Hebrew, like Arabic, is totally gender-inflected. Yet Turkish served for centuries as the Ottoman imperial language in that most sexist of societies and Hungarian as the Habsburg co-official language, while the state of Israel has had a woman prime minister, state-comptroller gen-

Female doctors

From Sir Alan Greengross

Sir, Your report (May 23) on a recently published survey of cuts in health services for women in London implied the loss of choice of treatment by women doctors for patients at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital; this is not so.

Anxious readers should know that the unification of the services and staff of the Hospital for Women, Soho Square, and the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital under one roof, in the Euston Road in 1989, has in fact extended the option of being treated by a woman doctor to a far larger group of patients than was previously the case. Bloomsbury Health Authority is determined to continue to pursue wider choices for women across all aspects of the health care services which it manages.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN GREENGROSS (Chairman),
Bloomsbury Health Authority,
25 Grafton Way, WC1.

Embryology Bill

From Mr S. G. Hale

Sir, If the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill passes into law in its present form and holders of hereditary titles marry but prove to be infertile, they will be able to arrange for a child to be born by artificial insemination and that child would one day inherit the title. Neither parents nor child would be able to discover the identity of the donor.

Equally, descendants of all children born by artificial insemination or other special treatment covered by the Bill will be unable to confirm or deny the possibility of birth as a result of such treatment (despite inheriting genes from the donor in this way), nor will they be able to learn the donor's identity. Let them have the possibility of discovering such information.

Yours faithfully,
S. G. HALE (Chairman,
Executive Committee),
Society of Genealogists,
14 Charterhouse Buildings,
Gowell Road, EC1.

Romanian elections

From Mr B. J. Collet

Sir, Mrs Currie says (May 24) that elections in Romania were free and fair.

I was associated with an organization that visited 29 polling stations in rural Moldavia, which holds one third of the population of Romania.

What we saw was chaos and fraud. The National Salvation Front alone controlled the polling stations and the counting of votes. Representatives of other parties were intimidated or chased away. Secret voting was an illusion.

What went on in Romania on May 20 does not deserve the name of elections.

Yours etc,
BERNIE JOHAN COLLET
(Minister of Defence, 1987-88),
Folketinget,
1240 Copenhagen, Denmark.

Learning languages

From Mr Frederick Lawson

Sir, If language-learning is as serious as the House of Lords Committee (report, May 17; Education, May 21) would have us believe, may I bring to notice the plethora of almost identical reports which have been produced since 1965. In that year I left industry to teach German and French in further education, hoping to help meet the "huge demand" which reports suggested would be created by Britain's then imminent entry into the Common Market.

If we are to do anything in time for 1992 I suggest that turning to our infant schools, as the Lords' committee suggests, is hardly the first priority and suggest the following pragmatic steps:

1. Exploit the fact that through all levels of society we are mostly native speakers - albeit badly - of the most important and widely-spoken language of business in the developed world and stop worrying about forcing our children to learn foreign languages.
2. Recognise that motivation and aptitude are the most important factors and encourage those who can and will learn languages by offering good employment prospects.
3. Employ European agents and salesmen and give them the incentive to sell our products and services in the country of their mother tongue.
4. Accept that languages are not our national strong point and concentrate on developing talents and skills to produce products and services so good that people will buy them in any language.
5. Abandon the idea of forcing every child to study a foreign language and use the resources to strengthen the teaching of basic communication and numeracy.

I have just taken early retirement, despite being told that I will "miss the bandwagon" of the new explosion in demand for languages.

Yours faithfully,
F. LAWSON,
Devon House, High Street,
Yarmouth, Dorset,
May 22.

Lesson from history

From Mr R. J. Howes

Sir, The Midland Examining Group's recent GCSE listening test in German, 1526/1/3, included an interview with a lady called Eva Braun. Not surprisingly she advised people to take up sport and to reduce their consumption of meat.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. HOWES,
9 Vicarage Road,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

Silence please, for the select few

If Members of Parliament have a weakness, it is a tendency to take themselves a little too seriously, and never more so than in the occasional meetings of the Committee of Privileges. A fine example can be found in the recent first report from that committee into the Premature Disclosure of Proceedings of the Education, Science and Arts Committee (HMSO, £5.85). The members of the committee included a number of parliamentary heavyweights — chairman Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House; Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General; several conservative knights; Merlyn Rees, former Home Secretary, and Tony Benn among them. After five meetings, the members, while upholding the "protection" given to committee proceedings, decided to take no further action.

What was all the fuss about? According to a report from the Clerk of the House, "it is against the custom of Parliament for any act done at a committee to be divulged before being reported to the House". That custom was already old when it was formally passed in the form of a resolution in 1837.

Over the last 20 years, there have been a number of leaks from committee proceedings, mainly about draft reports, but the persons responsible have never been identified and in general the House has refrained from taking action against the newspapers involved. The Clerk of the House, clearly scandalized by such pussyfooting behaviour, huffed and puffed: "I find it difficult to believe that in general terms the House considers that when the holder of a lobby pass causes substantial interference with the functions of the House and inflicts damage on the select committee system, he is 'merely doing his job'." He wanted lobby passes withdrawn automatically for a fixed period if the committees involved all recommended such action.

During the current proceedings, however, several members were searching for other means of tightening security on the draft reports. Sir Charles Morrison even seemed attracted to the extraordinary idea of instituting "some sort of equivalent to the D-Notice system". Whether Sir Charles knew exactly what he wanted may be doubted, for the D-Notice Committee includes press representatives and its purpose in warning of possible breaches of the Official Secrets Act is purely advisory. It seems nearly insane to suggest that press representatives could be found to support even a temporary news blackout on draft reports into subjects as far removed from

national security as the supply of teachers in the 1990s, or a draft report on museums and galleries — the two disclosures which formed the basis of the MPs' present concerns.

It was left to Mr Benn, the only realist in the group, to point out that if the legislature (i.e. the Committee of Privileges) appealed to the executives (i.e. the D-Notice Committee) to protect their proceedings "we would then be bending down to the people whom we were supposed to be interrogating".

Indeed, Mr Benn went a good deal further. He suggested that the 1837 resolution should be rescinded and confidentiality abandoned altogether unless particularly sensitive information was involved. He pointed out: "In 1837 — just after the Reform Act — the franchise was very limited, indeed all the voters were men, and the role of the House of Commons in relation to the electorate as a whole was wholly different..."

"In recent years the House of Commons has prided itself upon a new openness in relation to the electorate, as evidenced by the broadcasting and now televising of its proceedings... select committees are a part of the legislative process, as is the House as a whole, and any differentiation between secrecy of proceedings in one case and full publicity in the other is hard to justify in logic, law or practice..."

Of course Mr Benn made no progress with his fellow members. When he proposed an amendment to the committee's report and based it on the proposition that "we... cannot accept that the convenience of Members and the public interest are necessarily the same" he was voted down by eight votes to one. The Committee of Privileges remained convinced that the work of the Education Committee suffered damage as a result of the premature disclosures.

A page hurriedly inserted into the Privilege Committee's report points out that three pages have been printed in reverse order. In fact the "Conclusion" is printed before the "Introduction". That may well be symptomatic of the committee's thinking. The conclusion that damage is done by disclosure was automatic.

It was always so. Once privileges have been granted, they are very hard to relinquish. MPs still believe that the ethic of the "club" — no confidences for outsiders — comes before the rights of the people who put them there.

THE PRESS

Charles Wintour

Hard jousting for the lists

With deregulation in sight, *Radio Times* and *TV Times* await a circulation war, Andrew Lycett writes

With this week's radical redesign of *Radio Times*, the gloves are off for what the magazine's editor, Nicholas Brett, calls "the greatest publishing battle of the decade". Early next year *Radio Times* and *TV Times* will lose their lucrative exclusive rights to publish full television programme details, and newspaper and magazine groups are all set to jump into the fray with their own titles.

Newspapers see listings as a way to boost circulation, while magazines envisage them as the profitable centrepiece of publications targeted at groups such as sports fans and film buffs. Already, with circulations around three million a week each, *Radio Times* and *TV Times* together pull in an estimated £40 million in advertising each year — and aspiring entrants expect this market to expand in every way after deregulation.

Details of how the copyright enjoyed by *Radio Times* and *TV Times* will be transferred will not be clear until new clauses in the Government's Broadcasting Bill are debated next month in the House of Lords. The two magazines' publishers, BBC Magazines and IPC, may supply listings information in their own packaged formats, which could justify a sizeable royalty, or the information might come directly from the broadcasters for a nominal fee. Around a quarter of the £113 million which IPC paid the ITV companies last year for *TV Times* is supposed to reflect the title's royalty-earning potential.

Until such issues are resolved, most publishers have put their plans on hold, and *Radio Times* has used the hiatus to nip in this week with its comprehensive new look, estimated to have cost well over £1 million. It sees the overhaul in terms of a branding exercise to define the magazine's identity and lock in the readers, well in advance of the unruly free-for-all expected once television listings are formally deregulated.

Mr Brett has introduced full colour throughout the magazine. Drawing on readership research, he has also tried to improve the format. From the issue on sale yesterday, coverage of each day's television stretches across three pages, with highlights and the schedules at a glance on a right-hand page, followed by a double-page spread showing BBC1 in full on the left and BBC2 on the right. The effect is to bring *Radio Times* down-market, but



Combatants in "the greatest publishing battle of the decade": Bridget Rowe (left) and Nicholas Brett

Mr Brett says these changes are an attempt to strike a balance between his magazine's traditional authority and its need to be more colourful and user-friendly.

Because it was acquired by IPC only last year, *TV Times* is slightly behind its traditional rival in preparing for deregulation. Earlier this year, it appointed a new editor, Bridget Rowe, the highly regarded former editor of another IPC magazine, *Woman's Own*. Like Mr Brett when he arrived at *Radio Times* two years ago, her first concern has been to get the right staff for the job, by shedding around a quarter of the *TV Times* workforce.

IPC's managing director, John Melton, emphasizes what he sees as *TV Times*'s entertainment values, as opposed to *Radio Times*'s perceived authority and information. He expects to have a new look *TV Times* in the newsgazette in September and he intends to protect its market share, in classic IPC manner, with two new additional listings titles aimed at niche markets.

If protecting market share is the game, BBC Magazines can offer titles from its growing stable, including a teenage-orientated weekly, *Fast Forward*, and *ESB TV Month*, produced by its subsidiary, Redwood.

The dark horse in this niche listings market is *Bella* publisher H. Bauer, which puts out three of the top-selling television guides in its native West Germany. For the last 18 months H. Bauer has employed a London-based special projects unit, headed by Frank Walker, former deputy editor of *TV Times*. This unit recently successfully launched *Take a Break*, a down-market women's magazine, rather like IPC's *Chat*.

Rival German publisher Gruner & Jahr prefers to wait until the market has settled after deregulation before committing itself. Another interested party, Tony Elliott, publisher of the London weekly *Time Out*, was an early advocate of deregulated listings, but admits his enthusiasm for a separate television guide has waned. He intends to publish a 16 to 24-page television guide at the back of *Time Out*, with two pages for each day's listings. Enmap and Hamfield Publications, publishers of *Plus*, the weekly magazine which goes out to 50 provincial papers, are still interested.

One magazine which has already set out its store for deregulation is *News International's* youth-orientated *TV Guide*. Editor Ian Birch says he is

working on different ways to present comprehensive listings, but agrees there is no point in developing existing plans until the mechanics of deregulation are clearer.

National newspapers, with their separate editions, are ideally placed to solve the problem of regionalization which holds back several magazine publishers. They can afford to produce different listings sections for each of the 13 television regions. Robert Maxwell's *Mirror* group clearly has an eye on the market here; it has appointed former *TV Times* managing director Alwyn Wise to head its newspaper magazine subsidiary and recently extended its regional coverage to nine editions.

The Broadcasting Bill could gain Royal Assent as early as July, but the new deregulated regime will not be introduced for a further six months. Mr Elliott claims this is a Home Office sop to BBC Magazines and IPC, allowing them one more bite at the money-spinning Christmas cherry, when *Radio Times* sells 11 million copies. But the bad news for these two publishers is that the Government has probably made as many concessions to them as it intends to. New listings newspapers and magazines will certainly be out early next year.

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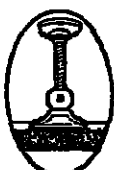
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Undeterred by television's past failures to find a winning magazine format for women, the BBC is having a go. Geraldine Bedell reports

Prime time for women

Do women want their own television programme? It is a question that has been asked many times before, but the answer has always been a resounding "no".

If you can appeal to more than half the population on common themes, just think what it will do for the ratings. And yet it has never quite worked. Neither of the two previous attempts to produce a women's magazine for television (Watch the Woman in 1985 and Woman in View in 1988, both on Channel 4) made it to a second series.

Undeterred, BBC1 has launched another attempt at the genre. Head Over Heels goes out on Sunday evenings at around 6pm - a time when, even in summer, the BBC must expect good ratings. The show, which it replaces, regularly had an audience of more than four million. The producer of the series, Jane Lush, is anxious to stress that this is not meant to be television which excludes men: "I felt there was a need for a programme which looked at issues from a woman's point of view. But we are deliberately not calling it a women's magazine, we hope it will appeal more widely than that."

The programme grazes across all the fields favoured by women's magazines, from topical issues to profiles and fashion. But whereas women's magazines may cater to all these interests, they rarely do so all at once. The Woman's Own reader is very different from the reader of Harpers and Queen.

Readers of magazines can pick them up or put them down as the mood takes them. The Head Over Heels format necessarily forces the viewer the whole spectrum in just half an hour. Susan Rae, one of the co-presenters, intends that the programme will include hard news stories - Sunday's carried an item on Third World women who swallow plastic bags of drugs to smuggle them into Britain - alongside lighter items about single men who have affairs with married women, and "what you can tell about a man from the way he dances".

"The big mistake we made initially was to feel we had to cater for everyone," says the editor of Watch the Woman, Carol Sarler. "We'd panic that we'd not done anything one week for older women, or feminist women. By the end of the series we'd calmed down and were targeting younger women - but it is a problem, because TV demands such huge viewing figures before a programme is considered a success."

To target a programme at women implies that, if not quite a homogenous lump, they still have differences. This may become significant when it comes to the programme's handling of sex.

Head Over Heels goes out (the exact time will change) just before the news and Songs of Praise. But the programme was not originally devised for this slot, and has quite a lot of sex in it. One planned item looks at things people say to each other afterwards ("You were fantastic, of course size doesn't matter"). Another considers the indignity of being a woman: visits to the gynaecologist, periods, contraception.

There are parents who never quite get round to telling their children about periods; are they going to enjoy seeing the subject raised at bedtime on Sundays? And viewers who are happy to settle down with granny and the kids to watch The Antiques Roadshow may feel less happy to watch men talking about their affairs with married women.

"I have an eight-year-old daughter, and I certainly wouldn't put anything into the programme I wouldn't want her to see," Ms Lush says. "I don't necessarily think it's right that people don't tell their children about periods, and I don't think we can make programmes on the basis that there are a few people who may be upset. That makes for bland television."

Lucy Pilkington, the other co-

presenter, and a director of Head Over Heels, believes that what distinguishes this show from previous attempts is that the latter were always "slightly better". While Ms Rae does play a slightly waspish role, it is noticeable that Ms Pilkington is there to be an enthusiastic foil. Ms Lush comments: "I want to prove something that television has slightly forgotten: that you can have serious and light items alongside each other."

With, of course, plenty of popular items thrown in. Ms Lush refers several times to Nationwide as a model for the editorial mix and appeal she is looking for. "You have to be aware on the one hand that television delivers a very broad audience, and on the other that old people don't only like to watch items about old people."

The questions which hang over Head Over Heels - whether other women's journalism works because it is precisely targeted, or if the quick change from light to dark issues is incongruous on the screen, or the show is in the right slot - will not be answered until further into the series. But does it matter that we have already read about what men talk - "or don't talk" - about in Cosmopolitan and GQ? We haven't seen the men on television before, sitting in their commuter train and explaining earnestly to the cameras that although they have been travelling together for 20 years, they know absolutely nothing about each other.

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NICK MALAND

Famous - and sentimental - pages have become big business

Who needs yesterday's papers?

manager with Buzzi, the paper and packaging group, he switched to running a chain of newspapers, then opened a gallery selling original and rare newspapers in Covent Garden nearly a decade ago.

"I was selling original newspapers which dealt with stories like the Plague or the Great Fire of London, and had many customers," he says. "But frequently someone would ask for a paper of a specific date as a birthday or anniversary gift."

"After turning them away politely for several years, I realized I should be selling people what they wanted, as well as continuing my love affair with historic newspapers. Soon afterwards, I was fortunate enough to buy a complete run of The Times from 1815 to 1975 - there

were about 20 tons of them, in beautifully-bound volumes - from a Scottish university.

"Then I picked up a smaller run of the Daily Sketch from 1914 to 1920. When the Express group changed hands, I bought its library, and also acquired the London Evening News library."

At one time, all national and provincial newspapers had their own vast libraries. Then the old pages were put on microfilm, and they became largely redundant. Many have been rescued by Mr Heron.

"Newspapers, reference libraries and universities have all had to make a decision over the past 20 years: can they really afford to keep thousands of original papers weighing anything up to 50lb a volume? More and more have

turned to microfilm, and the files have had to go."

At any one time, Press Archives has more than a million newspapers in its warehouses at Sevenoaks and Tonbridge. They are almost all in bound volumes: "Stacks of loose papers tend to go yellow round the edges and the fold, then start to break up," Mr Heron says.

Most of his business is done through newspaper advertising. Prices range from £10 plus VAT for a perfect, full-size front-page reproduction to £17.50 for an original newspaper. "We almost never buy single newspapers, although I might be interested in a copy dealing with the Titanic or Lusitania disasters."

"Undoubtedly the priciest English back number would be The Times of November 7,

1805 - the victory at Trafalgar and death of Nelson. That might be worth £10,000. There are only about 20 original copies left in existence, although thousands of reprints are in circulation. A death-of-Kennedy paper might fetch £30 to £50, depending on title and condition."

Business is brisk in newspapers from the 1940s. "So many people got married in the early days of the war that there is a huge demand for newspapers as golden anniversary presents."

A walking encyclopaedia of newspapers, Mr Heron was honorary archivist of the Press Club for eight years, until it closed in 1987. "Although I am always dealing with yesterday's newspapers, it is wonderful to think that the printed word is alive and well," he says.

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TONY WHITE

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Living outside the family law

The number of unmarried couples living together, and children being born out of wedlock, is increasing. But are they adequately protected by the law when they split up? Alexandra King looks at moves for reform



Judge rejects claim by mistress for half share of business

By Robin Young

The former mistress of Mr Michael Whitehall, the West End theatrical agent, yesterday lost her claim for a 50 per cent share of the business.

Lost cause: When Michael Whitehall and Victoria Windeler split up after living together for 10 years, she sought redress, but the judge described her claims as "ridiculous"

The Scottish Law Commission has opened a Pandora's box by seeking views on whether cohabiting couples should be covered by family law. The commission has issued a consultation paper, "The Effects of Cohabitation in Private Law", which raises the possibility of living-together contracts and "palimony" payments being recognized under Scottish law, as they are in some American states (but not in the UK). It cites the example of those who help to build a business, home or family, and are left without the legal right to compensation or maintenance when the relationship ends.

"Unfortunately, there aren't any cohabitants' unions," says Dr David Nichols, of the Scottish Law Commission, "but we would hope to receive views from legal bodies and those representing single parents and family policy. Of course, the Church will probably step in, but the thrust of this consultation paper is quite definitely financial: what should the financial sort-out be on splitting up?"

Living-together contracts are, for the moment, only for the "clued up", as Dr Nichols puts it, and affect a tiny minority of cohabiting couples. "I can't imagine a couple who don't see that marriage has any legal status wanting to bother with them," he says.

Professor Brenda Hoggett, who heads the family law committee of the Law Commission in London,

points out that since "the courts will recognize a properly valid contract in quantifiable terms", the English Law Commission is not over-concerned with the cohabitee question — although the majority of cohabiting couples are, the Scottish Law Commission suspects, in south-east England.

"There has been a more pressing need for reforming the grounds for divorce, and we have been looking at adoption, abuse, domestic violence and a great many other subjects," Professor Hoggett says. "The Scots are looking at what reforms will be needed for the codification of Scottish family law, but the chances in English law of people getting a share of the property to which they have contributed are already very good."

Some would dispute that. A year ago, in a case that held the headlines for more than a week, Victoria Windeler was told it was "ridiculous" for her to expect a share of the home she had shared with the theatrical agent Michael Whitehall for 10 years, or financial compensation for the business she believed she had helped him build up over the years through her domestic support. The judge noted that under English law men had no legal obligation to support their mistresses, even if they were living together.

Malcolm Wicks, the director of the Family Policy Studies Unit, an independent think-tank funded partly by the Government and

partly by private trusts, says that "cohabitation and its implications for family law and social policy are top of our agenda. It is one of the single most significant social changes of the generation — particularly when children are involved."

The Family Policy Studies Unit plans to undertake a major study of cohabitation, which it touches upon in a paper, "Family Change and Future Policy", to be published next month — "if we get the funding," Mr Wicks says. "So much of the evidence we have about 'family life' is based on marriage and divorce statistics, and we know nothing about what is happening to cohabiting couples and their children."

In the "swinging" Sixties, comparatively few couples cohabited, Mr Wicks believes. "Then, in the Seventies, more couples started to cohabit as a prelude to marriage rather than a substitute for it, and in the Eighties it truly became the norm. In 1987, 48 per cent of married women reported living with a man before they married him, compared with only 19 per cent in the late Seventies. In 1987, 17 per cent of single women were cohabiting, more than double the number in 1981."

But the most significant figure, he finds, is that today more than 25 per cent of children are born out of wedlock. "Sixty-eight per cent of those births were registered by both parents, and 50 per cent of those

parents were living at the same address," he says. Actresses, television presenters and other celebrities have been open about what used to be called "living in sin", he points out, and the profile of the cohabiting couple has changed.

"Now it's often very well-educated people rather than those in poverty and without family support — as was the case — who are cohabiting," says Zaida West-Meads, of Relate.

Relate, and its northern counterpart, the Scottish Marriage Guidance Council, would be among the organizations from which the Scottish Law Commission hopes to hear. "I would have thought the English Law Commission should be addressing this subject," says Ms West-Meads, "but I'd be against anyone seeing themselves up in moral judgement on cohabitation. That would make it become a bit more like the adversarial divorce system we already have."

Sue Slipman, the director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, which has its equivalent in the Scottish Council for Single Parents, says: "For some time we worked on a cohabitation contract, but the Family Law Reform Act now allows certain property transfers and claims. We certainly counsel people to have pre-cohabitation contracts, but the worst time to make a contract is when you're in love — a contract made at that time, even an enforceable one, may not be fair. But in order to look at the

question seriously, the Government would have to make cohabitation respectable, and that is something I can't see it encouraging."

Margaret Bennett, a family law solicitor and the vice-president of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and of the Family Law Committee of the International Bar Association, agrees. "If you make the rights of unmarried couples the same as married couples, what's the point of getting married? Divorce is easy enough these days anyway."

Talking about cohabiting couples is like talking about anyone who jointly owns anything — brothers and sisters, two, or even three, students buying a house together. If one person does a bigger share of the work or makes some improvements, should that person have a bigger share of the profits or should their work be valued and paid for?

"And what do you define as a couple? Homosexual couples, ménage à trois? Only couples who have produced a baby? I think it's a much more far-reaching area than they have realized."

Ms Bennett fears that a generation brought up in the shadow of divorce may feel "better off unmarried because of the problems divorce creates. They tie the trauma to the marriage certificate, rather than to the breakdown of human relationships. Should we be going around changing our fundamental unit of society, or should we be educating people?"

A question of exam timing

As Britain's pupils tackle their GCSE examinations, schools and parents face the problem of what to do post-exam

The debate about the timing of the GCSE continues to rage, even as thousands of pupils take their exams. They started in mid May, two weeks before the half-term holiday, and finish in mid June. Staff, pupils and parents all complain that teaching time has been shortened at the start of term, and that the end of the term, when the exams are over, is wasted. Heads of both state and independent schools are vigorously campaigning to have the exams later. But the Joint Council for the GCSE says this is impossible because of the number of courses involved. John MacGregor, the Education Secretary, has asked them to introduce a new timetable by 1992.

Meantime, unease about the post-exam period is widespread. After the initial relief, a breathing space and then the post-mortem... what next? Do schools organize extra-curricular activities, do they start induction A level courses straight away, or do they send pupils home for a three and a half month holiday?

"We did nothing much, just drifted about," one 17-year-old at a fee-paying school recalls of the blurred end-of-term existence after his GCSEs last summer. "It was a gross misuse of time, talent — and money," according to his angry father, who remembers his own school running cricket matches, plays and concerts well into mid July.

Most state schools allow pupils home after the exams. John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, says that in many cases, once the pupils are given leave of absence, "they simply vanish". Members of the association are also concerned that it is difficult to interest their pupils in pre-sixth form courses.

Mrs Jean Lord, head of Stroud High School (700 pupils, all girls), confirms the problem. "We did try to interest the girls in off time-able activities — but they were not taken up, and that was very disappointing, so the staff are now not motivated. It is dispiriting to make a lot of effort and get no results. Anyway, their time is very taken up at the end of term."

At the independent Cheltenham Ladies College the last GCSE will be taken on June 22 and term ends on July 6. The headmistress, Enid Castle, has tried A level teaching after the GCSEs, "but we found the girls were not ready for it". The school allows its girls home straight after their exams, but they must all be back for the end of term. The few girls who do not go home are offered courses in grooming, typing, PE and art.

Howard Green, head of the Henry Box School at Witney, Oxfordshire (a comprehensive with 1,000 boys and girls) is one of the few heads to keep classes going right up until each exam "because though pupils may take study leave as soon as the exams start, only a few of them are good at studying on their own". After wards the school runs paid-for residential induction courses for students staying on to the sixth form.

At Colfe's School, an independent boarding school in Kent (with 550 girls), faces the challenge of having both day and boarding pupils. After a week at home after the exams, girls do two weeks' experience, and back at school there are gap-bridging A level courses. The week before the grand finale of Founder's Day all the post-GCSE students are involved in rehearsals, putting up exhibitions, computerizing the library and helping with younger girls.

Many heads note that parents choose to take an earlier and longer family holiday after GCSEs are over. Parents whose work prevents them having an early summer holiday include barristers, MPs, civil servants, businessmen and auctioneers. Many post-GCSE students use the spare time to earn money — but so far there are no signs of employers jumping on the bandwagon and hiring cheap labour in June.

In order to make up for lost teaching time, many schools are starting their autumn term earlier, and increasing numbers are opting for a two-week break in the middle (resisted by boarding schools with substantial numbers of children whose families live abroad). Eventually, of course, the problem goes away of its own accord — when the children have finished with schools for good.

dependent, the headmaster, Vivian Anthony, is especially concerned with potential end-of-term waste and is energetically campaigning to push exams to a later point. He has invited the Industrial Society to run a course at the school before boys set out on work-experience "shadowing", and subsequently there is an elaborate range of sporting and outdoor activities. But he admits that day school pupils are "often reluctant to return".

Boarding schools tackle end of term in a variety of ways. David Jewell, Master of Haileybury College, explains: "Because we take in a large number of pupils at sixth form, we don't start A level teaching till the new term." Instead, the school offers a lakeside camp for open-air activities, or a sailing course ("leadership training", the head says firmly), or pupils can stay with a family in France. Last year similar courses were followed with enthusiasm. Mr Jewell feels strongly that "parents have paid the fees and ought not to have to pay extra — so the school pays half, and the parents pay half, approximately £80 per pupil."

Next year at Shrewsbury School, where almost every boy stays on to the sixth form and there is no new intake, the headmaster, Ted Maidment, has his plans ready. "We will send all the pupils home for 48 hours, then get them back as the new lower sixth, and start teaching them as such. I don't think there will be resistance, so long as the teaching is differently pitched." This year, meanwhile, there will be expeditions, cultural events, sport and some pre-A level lessons.

Tatiana Macaire, the head of Ashford School, in Kent (with 550 girls), faces the challenge of having both day and boarding pupils. After a week at home after the exams, girls do two weeks' experience, and back at school there are gap-bridging A level courses. The week before the grand finale of Founder's Day all the post-GCSE students are involved in rehearsals, putting up exhibitions, computerizing the library and helping with younger girls.

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& BRIEFLY

Designs for living

THE third British Interior Design Exhibition, which opened at the Chelsea Old Town Hall in London's King's Road last week and will run until June 17, is notable for the "livability" of its interiors after so many flights of fancy in previous years. The results make excellent viewing, with some extremely covetable pieces and good ideas. David Hicks's "White Study", for example, is a prototype for the home workstation of the future. This year, for the first time, all exhibits will be auctioned by Bonhams at 6.30pm on June 14. Entry is £7, which includes the lavish catalogue. Contact the Interior Design House at the exhibition (071-351 3716) for further details.

Bonsai bonus

THOSE who were smitten by the spectacular display of bonsai trees at the Chelsea Flower Show last week — or who could not quite see them because of the crush — will want to attend the National Bonsai Exhibition at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington, High Street, London W8, on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17. Phone the Institute on 071-703 4535 for further details.

Squeaky clean

INCREASING numbers of men — even in Britain — are wearing cosmetics. A new grooming range has been launched to appeal to the new breed of green and clean man. From Pretty Natural, "Natural Man" is said to fulfil his "aspirations for speed and efficiency and also for an improved environment with a minimal packaging concept and the inclusion of only pure, natural ingredients which have not been tested on animals." The strength of Natural Man apparently comes "from a masculine and vital blend of lemon and ginseng oils to keep his body in peak condition..." Prices are reasonable — the shampoo costs £2.45, for example. The range is available by mail order from Pretty Natural,

Kynocks, Bideford, Devon, as well as from chemists and department stores.

On a string

TO CELEBRATE pearls, the June birthstone, and her recent move to new premises in London's South Molton Street, the jewellery designer Fiona Lukes will hold an exhibition and sale of fine pearls from next Wednesday to June 15. Single strands may be purchased or a special design commissioned in freshwater, baroque, white, cream, pink, ivory or black pearls — and Ms Lukes and her partner, John Lloyd Morgan, will be showing drawings of pearl jewellery and pearl-encrusted objects d'art. Prices start from about £250, and customers' own pearls can be restrung. The Pearls in June exhibition is at 50 South Molton Street from 11am-4pm.

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Guarding goal for the fans

If a British supporter runs into trouble in Sardinia, a remarkable 72-year-old woman will be on hand to help, Andrew Lycett reports

The toughest month in Nadine Ekserdjian's 25-year career as Britain's honorary consul in Cagliari, the capital of Sardinia, is about to begin. This week, the vanguard of an expected 8,000 English football fans starts arriving on the island, well in advance of its team's opening World Cup match against the Republic of Ireland on June 11. To cope with the expected heavy workload, Her Majesty's Government is flying in six full time consuls, normally resident on the Italian mainland. The first, from Naples, arrives today.

Miss Ekserdjian, aged 72, refuses to be ruffled. "I'm going to be sitting in the office during the day, as usual. There will probably be more consular work than normal. But I'm in the habit of doing one thing at a time. I'm not the excitable type."

Her main responsibility is helping Britons in trouble. Sardinia is not a leading package tour destination, but growing numbers of holiday-makers have discovered the charms of its clear seas and sandy beaches. Many are yachtsmen, sailing around the Mediterranean.

Miss Ekserdjian issues them with emergency passports, if required, and visits those unfortunate enough to land in hospital or prison. She expects to be doing much the same over the next month. "Issuing an emergency passport does not take long," she says. "One person in hospital is much more time-consuming than 10 with piffing problems."

Is she ready for 8,000 football fans, though? "I'm not a wild enthusiast," she says. "Call me a temporary fan. But it's a marvellous game. I can't see why England supporters should be any different. I'm hoping most sincerely that England will win."

Miss Ekserdjian (she pronounces it "ex-surgeon") belongs to the old-fashioned school of British representatives abroad — good-humoured, efficient, a little stiff. She is of Armenian extraction: her grandfather went to Britain from Istanbul in 1892. "Don't make me out to be someone who has just arrived from Yerevan."

Her family's centenary in Britain will come, appropriately, in the year of the European Single Market. Her father worked at the London Metal Exchange, and Miss Ekserdjian was sent for her education to Paris. Languages were her forte, and her first job

the six-person consular reinforcement for the World Cup, says: "We would expect people to get into the normal sorts of trouble tourists get into." The biggest problem he foresees is that, "once they're on the island, it's very difficult to get them off". Since the end of last year, he has had regular discussions with the Italian authorities on such matters as banning alcohol in and around stadiums and segregating fans on ferries. (Most of the British fans will arrive in Sardinia after a 14-hour ferry journey from Genoa.)

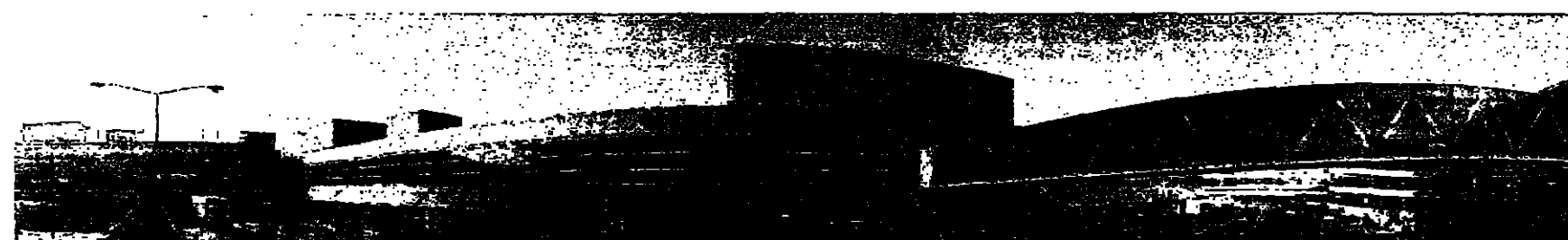
The formidable Miss Ekserdjian awaits them. She recalls how she was once visited by a Texas lawyer who had lost his yacht and wanted help in finding it. She made a few telephone calls and quickly reunited him with his craft. But why, she asked him, had he contacted her and not the harbour master, the carabinieri or the local American representative? "Before I left home," he replied, "I was told: 'If you're ever in trouble, contact either a Catholic priest or, preferably, a British consul. They're the people who really know what's going on.'"

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Playing it cool: honorary consul Nadine Ekserdjian is unruffled by the imminent arrival in Sardinia of 8,000 English fans for the World Cup

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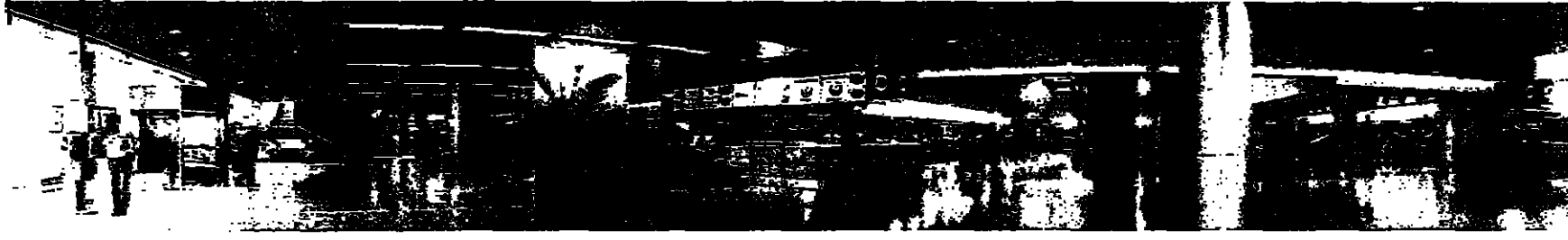
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An enigma in a coat of batter

Fish and chip shops were the first fast food takeaways — how did they start?

We know roughly when the exotic pineapple reached Britain, because there is a picture of Charles II being presented with one in the 1680s. But the origins of the humble British staple fish and chips remain a mystery.

An exhibition titled Frying Tonight, which is attracting more visitors than a rush-hour chippie, probably contains the entire sum of knowledge on the topic.

Alan Robinson, who helped prepare the exhibition for the Blackburn-based North West Museums Service, admits to having little information on the origins of what became the first fast food. "I may be biased, but I like to think it started in Lancashire — perhaps with fish from the coast and locally grown potatoes put together by some enterprising tripe boiler," he says.

Certainly, shops 100 years ago were selling cold fried fish and hot jacket potatoes, and vendors would tour the taverns with fried fish on a tray.

Even earlier, in 1861, Henry Mayhew wrote in his *London Labour and the London Poor*: "The fried fish sellers live in some out-of-the-way alley, and not infrequently in garrets, for even among the poorest class there are great objections by their fellow lodgers on account of the odour of the frying."

But what of the chip? Was it a downmarket offspring of the fried potato? "Because fish and chips was working-class food, no one considered it important enough to record its origins," Mr Robinson says.

Several places claim to be the birthplace of fish and chips, including Mossley, near Oldham. Two of the first firms to make frying ranges began in Oldham in the 1860s.

Whatever the truth, fish and chips were selling well by the late 19th century. They were the first convenience food for working-class people, perhaps coming off shift from mills or factories and not wanting to cook a meal.

But the problem of smell

would not go away for chip shop proprietors. In 1911 — despite a deputation of fish fryers to Whitehall — they were put on the offensive trades list, along with soap boilers, fat and tallow melters, gut scrapers and knackers' yards.

Chippies officially remained an offensive trade until 1940. If the fat was not changed every day, the shops smelt awful and were usually confined to the poorer districts of town. As their popularity grew, however, the equipment and premises became more sophisticated.

Some shops installed plush seating for customers, and in 1928 Daniel's Fish Restaurant, in Kentish Town Road, London, paid £1,200 to convert a storage cellar into a "palatial dining hall fit for a king, where patrons have the choice of many varieties of fish, to say nothing of the chips, accompanied by a wide range of both hot and cold beverages, all at moderate tariff."

Chip frying ranges graduated from smelly, coal-fired brick devices with round-bottomed pans holding gallons of oil, to today's elegant and odourless custom-built creations. At one time, dripping was the favoured cooking fat, but today oils tend to be vegetable-based.

Britons eat 50,000 tonnes of fried fish annually. In the north, cod, plaice and hake are popular, while southern chippies might sell more huss, skate wings and lemon sole.

Despite the boom in burger bars and pizza parlours, Mr Robinson is convinced the future of the chippy is assured. "A new breed of fryer is emerging who is more go-ahead and adaptable. Even though there has been an explosion of fast-food chains, at most neighbourhoods have at least one chippie, if not two."

BERNARD SILK

● Frying Tonight is on display at Rosendale Museum, Whitaker Park, Rawtenstall, Nr Burnley, until June 30.

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ARTS

DANCE

At home with the classics

Sylvie Guillem, the reigning queen of the Royal Ballet and star of a Covent Garden gala tonight in honour of Dame Margot Fonteyn, talks to Debra Craine

They have both been described as the world's greatest ballerinas in their day, but no two dancers could be more different than Margot Fonteyn and Sylvie Guillem. So it is ironic that tonight's Covent Garden tribute to Dame Margot, which is a sell-out, will feature the young French superstar in one of Fonteyn's greatest roles.

A quarter of a century after Fonteyn first danced Juliet to Rudolf Nureyev's Romeo, the Royal Ballet is honouring her with a gala performance of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet*, starring Jonathan Cope and Guillem in the title roles.

Fonteyn once said, with characteristic modesty, that "the standard of the dancing is so very very much higher now than it was when I started today. I don't think I'd have any career at all. The technique of all the dancers is just astounding today."

Certainly none is more astounding than that of Guillem, aged 23, who made a meteoric rise through the ranks of the Paris Opéra Ballet before joining the Royal Ballet as a principal guest artist in February 1989. She burst on the Covent Garden scene with a phenomenal technique based on amazing strength and suppleness which left audiences gasping and critics reaching for superlatives. But once the novelty of the unbelievably high extensions of her long legs wore off, some critics began to complain of an emotional coolness and a carefully studied approach to her interpretations.

Guillem herself is aware of the limitations in possessing such an extraordinary body. As she says: "Technique is boring. I have a physical gift and that's not enough. You must work on the gift so that it does not become a defect. I can't say that I'm an artist. I just know that when I go on stage,

I give everything I have, not only my legs, not only my feet, not only my body. I try to tell a story. Sometimes I'm able to cry because I feel like I'm able to love because I feel like it. I don't consider myself like an instrument."

Although Guillem never saw Fonteyn on stage and has not felt influenced by the British ballerina, she appreciates how dancers have changed since the days of Fonteyn and Nureyev.

She explains: "I think the problem is that of course, they have more technique but they have fewer emotions. Before you were telling a story, now you are doing pirouettes, you are doing jumps, and it's like a competition between each dancer to turn more, to raise the leg higher."

However, Guillem probably would not accept that her own virtuosity is partly responsible for this new attitude to dancing. Since her arrival at the Royal Opera House, other dancers in the company have felt compelled to try to match her technical brilliance and astonishing extensions, whatever the cost to their natural lines.

She denies ever courting celebrity status, fuelled in Britain by her flamboyant Parisienne chic and a highly public row with Nureyev. An *étoile* of the Paris Opéra Ballet when she was only 19, Guillem became the most talked about ballerina in the world when she walked out on the company and Nureyev, who was then its director, in a dispute over her contract.

Seeking more money and greater freedom to dance elsewhere as a guest artist, the wilful 23-year-old found herself up against an intractable management. "They treated me like I was still a little girl from the school. They told me, 'No you are not going to do that, you are not going to dance over there.'"



Sylvie Guillem as Juliet, partnered by Patrick Shepherd as Paris, in *Romeo and Juliet*

"I didn't leave Paris Opéra because of Nureyev. I left because of the administration."

"We are still good friends. I admire him a lot, but I can disagree with him. I don't regret anything."

At Anthony Dowell's invita-

tion, she found a new home in the Royal, a company which provides her with a classical base — "because you need to come back home to rebuild your strength in the classics" — while allowing her to make frequent guest appearances abroad.

So how does she feel about being described as the world's greatest ballerina?

She says: "Of course it's always flattering, but it's not like a medal I wear because each time I go on stage, maybe next day I won't be the greatest dancer in the world."

Dancing stars who would rather not keep company

Simon Tait meets Andris Liepa and Faroukh Ruzimatov, stars of the Kirov Ballet and American Ballet Theatre, both due in Britain

"I am a patriot," says Andris Liepa, on why he returned to the Soviet Union to dance. "The people need me here, and ballet is good for patriotism. It's why Russian ballet is in its Renaissance."

The rumours in 1989 were that when Liepa returned after a year in New York, he had "defected back" to the Kirov, and that the Bolshoi he had left refused him so he went to the Kirov instead.

He says that is nonsense: the Bolshoi had nothing new to offer him — a criticism which audiences in London gave about the Bolshoi repertoire last summer — but the Kirov had something. British ballet-goers will be able to judge Liepa's own contribution in this summer's tour.

Less clear is under whose banner London Coliseum audiences will be seeing Faroukh Ruzimatov, that other Kirov star. He has announced that he is joining American Ballet Theatre, (ABT) which Liepa left at the end of 1989.

As far as Oleg Vinogradov, the Kirov's artistic director, is concerned, Ruzimatov is with him for the summer tour. However, he is currently dancing with ABT in New York. That company insists that Ruzimatov will join it for its British tour in July.

In Leningrad, ballet is a spectator sport. There is no more knowledgeable audience. Rival fans support Liepa and Ruzimatov, much as they do Liverpool and Everton in Britain. Leningraders say that if the two were to dance in the same performance, the fans would buy at each other. Wild cheering would come from one side of the house for a Liepa leap, answered from the other side by a Ruzimatov manoeuvre. The dancers are unable to walk the streets without being mobbed.

This summer, the Kirov comes

to London and Birmingham. Whether Ruzimatov dances with the Kirov or the ABT, we shall still be able to compare them — ABT has a week at the Coliseum after the Kirov's five-week programme.

The two are contrasts in every respect. The saturnine Ruzimatov, aged 26, comes from Tashkent in Uzbekistan, the son of two music teachers. At 11, he won a scholarship to Leningrad's famous Vaganova Ballet School after he was spotted playing soccer at a Young Pioneers camp. Later, Vinogradov detected what he called fire. "But there was no fire then, only steam," says Ruzimatov. Vinogradov said the dancer's problem would be the disease of superstardom — corrosive vanity.

He is a peculiar shape for a classical dancer — short and wiry — as was another great graduate of

the Vaganova, Nijinsky. He is temperamental and famously adept at upstaging his partners. He has been troubled by injury, but is philosophical about it: "If you wake up in the morning and you don't feel any pain, then you should know that you are dead."

When I spoke to him in February, he was still negotiating with ABT. But the reason for the move was plain: he was not dancing enough with the Kirov. "There are only 14 ballets a month at the theatre. Everybody has to dance, and there are many soloists, so it means I only get to dance once or twice a month on the Kirov stage." Liepa had just arrived, and the implication seemed to be that there was not room for the two of them.

Liepa's father was Maris Liepa, one of the Bolshoi's greats, and a world famous interpreter of heroic

roles. Liepa, aged 28, admits that he worships his father, and more so since his death a year ago; he had followed him into the Bolshoi. He is tall and has a blond Nordic beauty which comes from his Baltic mother. "The Russian from my father helps me dance openly, the Latvian-German culture helps me think hard."

He had a good life in New York, he was fired, Liepa explains. "But in New York you were invited to dinner so your host could show you off to important friends. In Leningrad, you are invited to dinner so your host can find out about your art."

"I missed the Russian audience. We need the romantic style, the prince you can dream about. People need a dream to survive."

● The Kirov Ballet is at the Point Theatre, Dublin, until June 2. The Coliseum, London, June 5-July 7, the Palace Theatre, Manchester, June 18-23 and the Hippodrome, Birmingham, July 9-14. American Ballet Theatre is at The Coliseum July 9-14.

TELEVISION

Mystery men

ALTHOUGH it was seriously overlong at 90 minutes, at the heart of Christopher Rawlence's *The Missing Reel* on Channel 4 last night was a cracklingly good mystery story. On September 16, 1890, a man called Augustin Le Prince disappeared on a train between Dijon and Paris. Two years earlier, in the garden of a small house in Leeds, he had invented the moving picture.

That last sentence can never be written without raising other ghosts: Edward Muybridge, who first photographed a horse in motion, William Friese-Greene of the magic box, and Thomas Edison, who finally got the movie patent and most of the money. But Le Prince has a very strong claim to the invention, and members of his family are still convinced that Edison's vastly better organization simply did away with him to forestall any competition.

Certainly this was the belief of his loyal widow who set detectives on his trail and regularly fought police and patents offices to establish not only her husband's murder but also his invention. Edison had other rivals, some of whom enlisted the Le Prince family to support their claims, and by 1910 the history of early film had already become very foggy.

At issue here was the classic struggle between the maverick inventor and the huge corporation as well as the more domestic tragedy of a vanishing husband and father. In all likelihood, Le Prince was not murdered at all, by Edison or anyone else; he had got into severe financial trouble and wanted to spare his family the distress of bankruptcy.

All the same, the questions persist, not least those surrounding another mysterious death, that of Le Prince's son soon after losing yet another patents struggle. But even the plaque in Leeds commemorating the centenary only concedes that Le Prince's were "probably" the world's first moving pictures, and by the same token the son probably took his own life, though by the film's end, the family were speculating that his brother might have killed him in an inheritance squabble.

In the absence of any kidnap or murder evidence, the suicide of

the father could well explain the suicide of the son: in any event the victory went to Edison and the rest is, if not history, then at least the making of a good programme.

Paul Watson's fly-on-the-wall Present Imperfect series (BBC 2) continued with *Thorny and Co*, a documentary which looked for much of its time like a latterday *Brideshead*, remade on a wet afternoon by Federico Fellini. Its real-life star was the old Harrovian Thornton Streeter, a yuppie on the rebound from the stock-market crash who finished up all too suitably making some much-needed cash as an extra on *Capital City*. He was also a poet of Pseudo Corner pretensions, a born-again Christian with an interest in revivalist commercial radio stations, and a man apparently incapable of analyzing himself in five minutes when 30 minutes would do.

Here, as in his earlier and better *The Fishing Party*, Watson was, I think, trying to tell us something about the evils of the idle rich. But the people he chose last night to illustrate his thesis were so loony that they would have seemed extra-terrestrial no matter what class or income-bracket they came from.

"I have decided to get into accounts executive type stuff," Thornton told one understandably perplexed adman, while his terror of taking any regular employment occupying more than about 20 minutes a week seemed to limit his career options.

At times he seemed to be economically all right ("I do have houses in France and will be buying some ski resorts"), at others to be down to his last blue chips, which he discussed as though they were some new kind of colourful potato crisp. An endless ability to talk drivel on telephones and bare his teeth seemed not quite enough of a qualification even for selling small-ads, and by the time he finally asked himself whether he was a victim of society or "a little shit", I had already made up my mind. We left him heading off on a plane to India for a whole new career as Elmer Gantry.

SHERIDAN MORLEY



Andris Liepa: Happy to be with the Kirov

CRITICS' CHOICE: DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: The Margot Fonteyn tribute performance tonight is sold out, but there are further performances of *Romeo and Juliet* in the Covent Garden "proms" week. Lesley Collier and guest star Laurent Hilaire (Morn), Viviane Durand and Stuart Cassidy (Tues) Tomorrow, Tracy Brown has her first leading role in *Month in the Country*, and Darcy Russell leads the cast of *Song of the Earth*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), 7.30pm, £1-£41.

LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE: Three recent productions begin a short tour. Dan Waggoner's *Turtles All the Way Down*, Jonathan Lunn's *Goes Without Saying* and Kim Brandstrup's *Orfeo*. Apollo, Oxford (0865 244544), tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, £5.50-£10.50.

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Ashton's great romantic comedy *Le Fille mal gardée* (tonight, tomorrow), the premiere of Graham Lustig's *Inscape* (Fri, Sat) with Ashton's *The Dream* and Binyamin's *Flowers of the Forest*. Theatre Royal, Plymouth (0752 689556), 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, £7-£21.

TWO STAR DANCERS from the Paris Opéra, Wilfride Poret and Jean Guizarot, give a special duet evening for the Bath Festival, including Balanchine's *Sonatine*, a suite by Merce Cunningham and John Cage and *Nouvelle Lune* by André Deshayes. Theatre Royal, Bath (0225 483362), Sat, 7.30pm, £5.50-£14.50.

LE CORSAIRE: Opening the Kirov Ballet's London season, a rollicking old-fashioned drama with some pure Petipa choreography. London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071 836 3161), Tues until June 9, 7.30pm, mat June 9, 2.30pm, special gala prices tonight, then £4-£16.

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: London season opens with a mixed bill including Ronald Hynd's Offenbach comedy *Leaons Amoureux*, and Gillian Lynne's *Les Amoureux*. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071 278 8816), Tues until June 9, 7.30pm, mat June 9, 2.30pm, special gala prices tonight, then £4-£16.

JOHN PERCIVAL

PERFORMANCE ART

ROSEMARY BUTCHER DANCE COMPANY: *d2* In the second part of a triptych of performances, Rosemary Butcher joins up with innovative architect, John Lyle and minimalist composer Jim Fulkerson to create a piece which explores man's relationship to his created environment. The performance is perfectly placed in the setting of this Haworth church on the edge of the City.

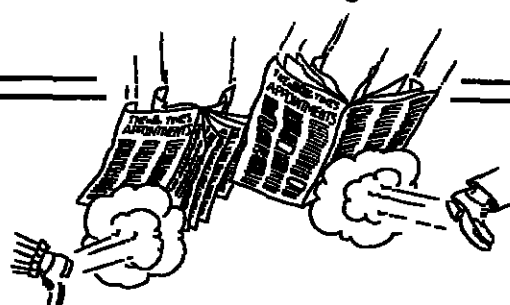
Christ Church, Commercial Street, Spitalfields E1 (071 387 0031), part of the Spitalfields Festival, tonight-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 6.30pm, £5-12.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES: An exciting series of art on show in accessible settings is provided this month by Artangel. Rushed Areen's large scale colour work *Golden Verses* will be placed on billboards nationally between now and September. This poster image uses an eastern rug featuring Urdu text. Translated around the edge is a poem in praise of white people, showing ironically the way many were taught to view Europeans. *Passing Glances* is window art — photo and video works for pedestrians. Situated at the New British Library site in Euston Road, London, works will be on display in glass-fronted boxes until August. Zanna Bhimji, Graham Budgett, Keith Downey, Bob Last and Janine Rook all explore different subject matter. *Objects of Desire* is a broadcast of warnings on the Spectator screen in Piccadilly Circus. This sampling of images will bombard us with serious messages about "motorway madness, chronic pollution and viral risk" — a change from soft drinks and hi-fi ads. By "Site Specific" the messages will appear for 30 seconds every 4-5 minutes until end of June. For further details on the above three ring Artangel on 071 434 2887.

PTUKA NTULI: At the *Nerve End of Our Dream*. As part of the Greenwich Festival, Azarian exile Ntuli uses sculpture, installation and painting to celebrate the dream of freedom. Greenwich Citizens Gallery, 151 Powis Street, Woolwich, London SE18 (Further details: 081-316 2752). Fri until 14 June, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, free.

CHRISTLAINE BODDINGTON

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THEATRE

Unfair to all

Penny Ciniewicz, winner of the 1990 BAC Young Director Award, tells Geraldine Bedell of the difficulties faced by women wishing to become theatre directors

For young, aspiring theatrical directors, the path is often one of frustration. Penny Ciniewicz, winner of the 1990 BAC Young Director Award, tells Geraldine Bedell of the difficulties faced by women wishing to become theatre directors.



Ciniewicz: a winner at last

Penny Ciniewicz, winner of the Battersea Arts Centre's Young Director Award 1990, has spent years in underpaid, often menial theatrical jobs waiting for her break. Now she has an award, a play about to open, and is being noticed at last.

But she confirmed suspicions voiced in the recent Gulbenkian report, "A Better Direction", that there are dozens of potentially excellent directors who are being denied opportunities because of the ad hoc and biased nature of recruitment.

"Now I have this tag, I'm a marketable product," she said. "Six months ago I was nobody, and none of the people who are now speaking to me would have bothered. The appalling thing is that there are dozens and dozens like me; the money is not there to take risks on them."

Ciniewicz's play, *Homework*, by German playwright Frank Xavier Kroetz, opens at Battersea on June 6. Two days later, the Royal National Theatre hosts a Platform discussion on the Gulbenkian report, to include the report's author Kenneth Rea, actress Jane Lapotaire, and Clare Venables, artistic director of the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

The report concludes that the current system for finding and training directors is not only unfair, but also inefficient, producing mainly male young directors, who tend to be academically expert, but often grossly ill-informed about how to handle actors or the technical aspects of theatre. It includes many complaints about "young directors just out of university, often lacking a sense of respect for stage managers and actors", or for that matter, knowledge of technique or practicalities.

In many ways, Ciniewicz at 26 is much better prepared than these bright young academic boys: she has worked with writers (she was on the management council of the New Playwrights' Trust, and co-ordinator of Wordplay, a festival of new writing aimed at marketing young writers). And as general manager of The Gate Theatre at Notting Hill, she was exposed to the mechanics: "When you are starting out, it is very easy to get the practical details wrong. But the Gate's work is very adventurous and testing, and because it is such a small building, you are never far from the action."

After university (Bristol, where she studied English and Drama), she took acting classes, the better to understand what makes actors tick. "I knew I wasn't ready to direct - 21 is far too young to do it well. You don't know enough about the practical aspects, and you have very little to offer actors," she says.

But even though in retrospect her "training" may have proved useful (Deborah Warner similarly fought her way up through stage management and administration) it was far from ideal - there were periods of under-employment, and, inevitably, gaps in what she was able to pick up.

"After university, people who wanted to be actors were able to go off and do three years at RADA. There's no extended training for directors which would allow you to feel you had served your apprenticeship and are equipped," she says.

that ignorance of theatrical convention among young directors straight from university often comes across as arrogance or conceit. "If you have had no training, you have to be arrogant to cover up how little you know," observes Ciniewicz. "But it is not really surprising there is so much hostility among actors towards directors; historically a lot of directors have been very bad."

Ideally, Ciniewicz would have liked to join a directing course similar to those in the United States, containing both theory and opportunities to watch experienced directors. As part of her Young Directors' prize, she observed Nicholas Hytner directing *Volpone*. "The most useful thing was to absorb some of his confidence. I felt much less overawed by the process. He is incredibly good as a director, but you see there is no magic formula."

Developing confidence to get out and sell yourself as a director is, Ciniewicz thinks, a particular problem for women. "There is a view that whatever the field, women tend to take a more circuitous or eclectic route. I think if I had been a man, I might have seen directing as easier. Men tend not to have the crisis of confidence I had when I left university. Public school tends to give boys a very developed sense of self-confidence, whereas women tend to gain that later, with experience of working and proving to themselves they can do it."

To make matters worse, there are precious few role-models. "Young men have more developed paths to follow, people to whom they can look. Deborah Warner is much vaunted now, but she was not around when I started out, five or six years ago. There are only two women in senior directing roles in large regional theatres."

Ciniewicz believes she won the Young Directors' title partly because she took risks in her actors' workshop, taking an irreverent, comedic, non-naturalistic approach to Chekhov's *Three Sisters*. She is certainly taking risks in choosing *Homework* for her winner's show: the cast includes a two-year-old (who may be on stage much of the time, depending on how much the child screams), a 10-year-old, and an on-stage depiction of an abortion, which provoked riots when it was first performed in Germany in 1970.

"I thought I probably wanted to do a foreign play: there is a plethora of European plays which people should see, and they are often stretching in terms of theatrical style. But I chose it because it was the first I came across which stopped me dead."

Ciniewicz will now receive an Arts Council bursary to subsidize employment as an assistant director in the professional theatre. Directors, the Gulbenkian report points out, need to embody many, often contradictory, qualities. Penny Ciniewicz's experience shows that at whatever age they break through, they have to be both lucky and exceptionally determined to acquire most of these skills - more or less accidentally - along the way.

Homework opens at Battersea Arts Centre (071-223 2223) on June 6

POETRY

Musical chapter and verse

This Saturday is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Hardy. Richard Morrison looks at how folk and church music permeated the author's life and is reflected in his work, particularly his poetry

The only poet to rival Shakespeare in the subtle and extensive use of musical metaphor is Thomas Hardy. To read through his more than 900 poems - a magnificent imaginative journey upon which, I hope, every English literature student has been sent at the 150th anniversary of Hardy's birth approaches - is not only to sample the petrifying darkness of Victorian pessimism at its most undiluted.

The reader also enters into a folk-music world drawn in such intimate detail that he or she seems to be hearing the very sounds Hardy describes: violins primitively bowing "Winchester New" in the west gallery of some Wessex church; a folkish fiddler striking up a reel at a country fair; or the village choir carolling themselves hoarse on their Christmas Eve rounds.

The remarkable fact is that these were sounds that Hardy himself could hardly have experienced. He was, admittedly, an occasional fiddler in early manhood, much in demand for Dorset wedding celebrations. But the church gallery-bands which figure so often in his poetry belonged to the age of his father and grandfather, and were all but extinct by the 1850s.

Indeed, when (in "A Church Romance") Hardy gives us this lovely image of across-the-pews courtship - "One strenuous viol's inspirer seemed to throw/A message from his string to her below" - he is actually describing his parents' courting.

So, simply as a record of a bygone folk tradition, Hardy's poetry would be significant. When in "The Dance at the Phoenix", he manages to cram eight dance titles (plus instructions on their steps) into seven rhyming lines, he seems to be slapping his own curious sort of poetic preservation order on a whole way of life.

But of course the musical references mean a great deal more than that. They play a fundamental role in conveying Hardy's tragic philosophy. Every great Victorian poet faced the crisis of lost faith: Hardy courageously confronted his own nihilism head on, in 900 different metres. "If way to the Better there be, it exacts a full look at the Worst," he wrote. With equal boldness he also used his poetry to expiate his guilt after his first wife's death. Finally, he had the classic Victorian ability to create a wistful nostalgia for an earlier age, and then he used this nostalgia to lash what he saw as a horrific present, marked by "the barbarizing of taste by the dark madness of the late war, the unabashed cultivation of selfishness, and the plethoric growth of knowledge simultaneously with the stunting of wisdom."

Music could represent the enduring, decent values and customs which "will go onward the

same, though Dynasties passed". In one of Hardy's most famous poems, "The Darkling Thrush", clearly written in despair on the final night of the 19th century, the bird's song seems to convey "Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew/And I was unaware". The thrush could be a metaphor for every village chorister whose simple belief Hardy envies but cannot share.

When "The deeper thinkers sneer and smirk" at this naive country faith, the repercussions can be extraordinary. In "The Choirmaster's Burial", the soul-

less vicar who stops the choir from playing the dead organist's favourite psalm round his grave is woken at midnight to see an angelic band doing the job. Or the scenario can turn tragic. "The Church Builder", who is derided for spending too much time and money on his beloved building, hangs himself from his own rood-screen. "The Chapel Organist", sacked because she has too many men-friends, shames her accusers by taking poison and expiring in the last verse of her last hymn.

The ritual of Christmas carol-singing carried a particularly

ambivalent significance for Hardy. He was not often as bitter about the season of peace and goodwill as in "Christmas: 1924". "After two thousand years of mass /We've got as far as poison gas". Nevertheless, the Christmas waits rarely have such pleasant experiences in his poetry as in his tongue-in-cheek novel *Under The Greenwood Tree*. Take "The Rash Bride", in which the carol-singers call on the girlfriend of one of their number, only to find she has secretly married someone else. Later that Christmas they find her body down a well.

Or take "Seen By The Waits", in which the singers spy the lady of the house dancing inside, alone. She has just heard that her "roving spouse" is dead. Or examine one of Hardy's most Gothic extravaganzas, "The Paphian Ball". Here, the entire choir is supernaturally hi-jacked on Christmas Eve, apparently by the Devil, to a wild ball where they play till dawn, forgetful of their parish duties. But when they strike up the carol "While Shepherds Watched", the whole diabolical orgy disappears; the bemused singers find themselves back on Egdon Heath near where an ancient burial ground "bulged like a supine negress' breast". They shamefacedly make their way back home, only to be congratulated by other villagers on the brilliance of their carolling.

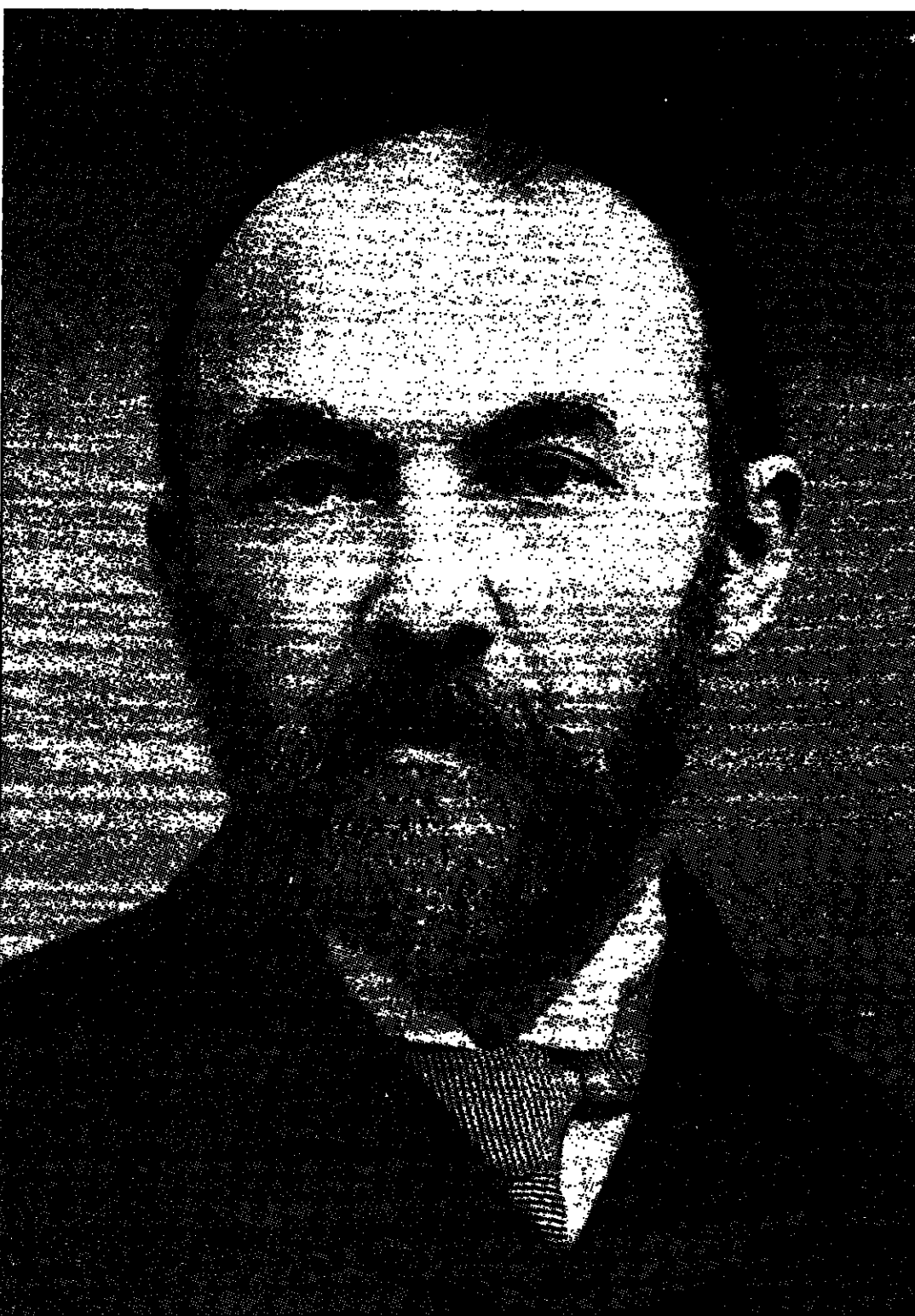
Darker musical images also haunt Hardy's poems. The image of the dance can mean life, youth and the seizing of present joys. But Hardy also presents the figure of the cynical fiddler who, observing the dancing couples, can "see them pay high for their prancing" - the payment being hasty marriages and life-long misery.

Musical instruments can become symbols of human decay. Viols, in Hardy's poems, are frequently worm-riddled, like bodies in coffins. And in "Beneath" - one of his greatest mourning poems for his wife - a pale old man sits wretchedly by a harpsichord that has long fallen silent: "... the chill old keys, like a skull's brown teeth/Loose in their sheath/Freeze my touch; yes, freeze."

Most often, however, Hardy makes music stand for something fleeting, unrepeatable, easily missed. "Everything glowed with a gleam; yet we were looking away" is how he ends his idyllic childhood vision in "The Self Unseeing"; his father playing the fiddle to his smiling mother, while young Hardy dances giddily.

Hardy's poetry is a master storyteller's ironic chronicle of incident and coincidence: quirky twists of circumstance that emphasize the human spirit's dogged ability to survive the worst adversities which a malevolent deity can devise.

His greatest musical poem, "At The Railway Station, Upway", catches in a few marvellous lines his whole view of human existence. A convict, a policeman and a little boy are brought together by chance, waiting for a train. It is a "pointless" encounter, except that the boy has a violin, and when he plays it the handcuffed convict suddenly bursts into song: "This life so free is the thing for me! Gallows humour? Self-deception? Sarcasm? It does not matter. Hardy's subject is not what people sang when they have 'handcuffs' on. It is the fact that they sing at all.



Thomas Hardy in 1889: his poetry is an "ironic chronicle of incident and coincidence"

LITERATURE

Re-righting writers' rights

Tim Heald reports a brief but vivid encounter with a Romanian heroine

"AND if I get looked up will you come and visit me?" asked Ana Blandiana, with a dazzling smile that said she did not think prison was an imminent prospect. But the question was a reminder that in Romania there are still few certainties. "Of course," I promised. She wagged a finger. "I'll keep you to it," she replied.

It had taken two weeks to arrange this meeting. Recent events have made Blandiana world famous. Even when we did meet - amid the faded gilt of one of the two Writers' Union mansions in Bucharest - there was a flow of interruptions. Attractive, exuberant, a prize-winning poet and novelist, she is one of the symbols of the revolution. As her curriculum vitae so poignantly puts it: "In 1985 and between August 1988 and December 1989, it was not permitted to pronounce her name."

Blandiana's name and telephone number had been given to me by International PEN in London. The world association of writers, which was founded in England in 1921, is now a federation with branches in almost every literate country. Romania's PEN,

first sponsored by Queen Marie, had died under the Ceausescu (along with crime fiction, thought to encourage the real thing).

The PEN people in London knew that attempts were being made to re-activate the Romanian centre but had little news. To reorganize, at least 20 Romanians had to sign the four-point PEN charter, an affirmation of human rights with a literary bias.

On our first day we were briefed by a first secretary of the Writers' Union, who seemed disturbingly vague and even defensive about a PEN centre. Romania is very confusing, and made more so by the poisonous mutual mistrust which is the worst hangover from the dictatorship. It is infectious. Several days later, visiting Mircea Mihaies, the young novelist who edits *Horizon*, the literary magazine based in Ti-

misora, I heard the first informed news of PEN. Mircea said that he thought Blandiana had copies of the charter and was collecting the signatures.

Our interpreter, whose father had been sacked for publishing a children's novel by Blandiana which was thought to be a veiled attack on Ceausescu, telephoned around town. Finally, on the last day of our visit, she heard that the author was at the Writers' Union, where she would be for another 10 minutes. We hailed a battered Dacia cab, and moments later, there she was, a smiling, rushing and apologizing presence in a flowered two-piece suit.

She said 22 copies of the PEN Charter had been signed and they would soon be in the post. I told her I was returning to London next day. "I'll take them with me if you like." "Da, da," she said, delighted at devoting the vagaries of the international post.

And then she was gone, waving and making me promise to visit her in prison if things went wrong. I was only the courier, only a tiny part of the process of bringing Romania's writers back to the international community.

Tomorrow: David Robinson reviews Robert De Niro and Sean Penn in *We're No Angels*. Clive Davis on how to make money from Gothic novels

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GRAMOPHONE



William Walton film scores on record, British composers and the cinema, and a collector's guide to the music of Carl Nielsen, are highlights of the June GRAMOPHONE, together with the most informed reviews of the latest classical recordings and new releases on Compact Disc, LP, Cassette, Laserdisc and DAT.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE: OPERA

LONDON

LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (Donizetti) and THE MERRY WIDOW (Lehar): Last chance to catch this season's offering from Opera 80. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8916), tonight and Fri (Lucia), tomorrow and Sat (Widow), 7.30pm, £4-£18.

ARIADNE ON NAXOS: Last performance this season of enjoyable Strauss revival. Anne Evans and Rita Culis excellent as Ariadne and the

Composer, Conductor: Lionel Friend. English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 3161), tomorrow, 7.30pm, £3-£23.

IL TROVATORE (Verdi): Piero Feggoni's static production less recommendable than its strong cast, including Vanessa, Stebiansko, Leiferkus and Randovs. Sian Edwards conducts. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1068), Fri, 7.30pm, £2.50-£22.

CLARISSA: Critics were evenly divided about Robin Holloway's treatment of Richardson's novel. The Times disapproved of what it saw as "exploitation"; others relished its uneven brilliance.

ENO (as above), Fri, 7.30pm, £3-£18.

ERNANI: The redoubtable Chelaea Opera Group turn their attention to Verdi's early success based on a Victor Hugo play.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800), Sun, 7.45pm, £5-£12.50.

OUTSIDE LONDON

THE MAGIC FLUTE (Mozart): Surprisingly, Peter Sellers's Los Angeles-set production has caused fewer patrons to splutter over the

Glyndebourne, Lewes, East Sussex (0273 541111), tonight, Sun and Tues, 5.25pm, £30-£75.

ALBERT HERRING (Britten): Safer fare for the less adventurous. Peter Hall's delightful production conducted by Graeme Jenkins. Glyndebourne (as above), Sat and Mon, 5.35pm, £30-£75.

COSI' FAN TUTTE (Mozart): The new production by Jürgen Gosch of the Berlin Schaubühne caused some scratching of heads, but is interestingly cast.

Scottish Opera, Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-331 1234), tonight 7.15pm, £5-£25.50.

TORNRIK: Affecting drama by John Metcalf and Michael Wilcox about the loss of spiritual instincts.

Welsh National Opera, New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), tonight, 7.15pm, £7.50-£26.50.

OTELLO (Verdi): Peter Stein's broadly conventional production for WNO is highly recommended; William Cochran and Faith Esham in the lead roles.

New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844), Fri, 7.15pm, £9.50-£30. Empire Theatre, Liverpool (051 709 1555), Tues, 7.15pm, £6.50-£24.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Going for the emotions

DANCE

English National Ballet Palace, Manchester

The posters outside the Palace Theatre still show the photograph of Peter Schaufuss, English National Ballet's former director, but last night we had only two-thirds of the programme he had planned for the company. The intention had been to show all British choreography this spring. A pity that when Michael Clark felt obliged to postpone his new version of *The Rite of Spring*, all that the new management could find to replace it was Bejart's well worn old *Bolero*, popular, but an odd choice for this context.

The rest of the programme was well worth doing and attracted what looked a good audience even on a Bank holiday; so much for the theory that the public only wants popular classics.

Christopher Bruce's latest creation for the company is *Symphony in Three Movements*, to Stravinsky's score. The best known ballet to this music is Balanchine's, which Birmingham Royal Ballet has announced for the autumn, and it is amazing that two choreographers can hear the same piece so differently.

Bruce starts well, with a lot of jagged, angular movement for 10 dancers scurrying under the legs of enormous towers of steel lattice work (designs by Nadine Baylis). But the jazzy overtones of the second movement lead him to a jaunty duet, danced by Josephine Jewkes and a newcomer, Alessandro Lacopini, with hip-



Josephine Jewkes, Maximiliano Guerra in Christopher Bruce's *Symphony in Three Movements*

swinging, hand-waving chirpiness.

From then on, right through to the surprisingly jubilant ending, you would scarcely guess that Stravinsky described this as a "war symphony". Bruce is too skilful a choreographer to conflict with the music's outer surface, but it seems that this time he has not dug deep enough. The ballet is pleasant, vigorous and well danced, but for me this is no substitute for the nervous harsh-

ness of the Balanchine treatment.

However, there is harshness enough to follow in the revival of Antony Tudor's *Echoing of Trumpets*. Set to Martin's *Fantaisies Symphoniques*, this shows a captured village in war time, its men gone, and the courage of its women resisting the violation and oppression of occupying soldiers.

Tudor's choreography depicts this in cogent dance images: a kick and a movement of the arm are

enough to imply an execution.

over-familiar partnering is all he needs to suggest a rape. This reticence makes the ballet the more compelling.

Some of the cast need more awareness of the implication of their movements, and tighter ensemble playing would not hurt, but Janette Mulligan, Marguerite Donelle and Christine Camillo show how it should be done.

JOHN PERCIVAL

THEATRE

A la Grecque La Colline, Paris

EDDY, the anti-hero of Steven Berkoff's *Oedipus*-revisited as *Greek*, may not put out his incestuous eyes, but Berkoff is culturally castrated and has his literary tongue cut out by the French premiere. Transcribed into *A la Grecque* by Geoffrey Dyson and Antonette Monod, Berkoff's savage Eighties diatribe is purged of its poetry, plundered of its mock-Tudor phrasing, rapped of its linguistic opulence. All that remains is a crude French game of *Syncope*, where the letters form nothing but bald expletives. Left in its English setting, Berkoff's ethnic benchmarks become as cryptic as the notches on a neolith, and Tuffnell Park as distant as the tundra.

Fighting against this turgid tide

of obscenities and bobbing mass of social *non sequitur* is Jorge Lavelli's virtuoso direction. Focused with more refinement than Berkoff's own pin-hole vision of the play, Lavelli sets his artistic metronome to the high-ched beat of punk-rock, opting more for vigour than violence. As with all Lavelli's work, there is an elegant balletic quality, whose beauty makes his impeccably timed lapses into crude sexuality all the more startling, all the more relevant.

Not for Lavelli a banal procession and a handful of *quelconque* kitchen-sink props. He calls upon the set designer Pace to carve a vast fluid space out of La Colline's exemplary main stage, greedily eating into the first half-dozen rows of seats in order to improve audience confrontation. Designer mud delineates the perimeters of the acting area, on which is displayed, a collection of chairs, ranging from the sturdy workaday

to the garish spindly gilt. The Sphinx arrives as if expelled from the depths of a neo-post-modernist pyramid.

Greek, even *la Francaise*, provides the cast with a rare dramatic vehicle in which to drive off classic conventions and flex atrophied contemporary theatrical muscles. Richard Fontana effectively pours himself into Eddy's black leathers and Catherine Hiegel sensually gyrates her way into the role of Eddy's maternal wife. Both on loan to La Colline from the Comedie Francaise, Fontana and Hiegel are like two panthers who find the door of their cage has been left open.

Fontana's Eddy does not menace to make the skin prickle, but there is a massive expenditure of physical energy whose steamy, sensuality permeates the air with the heady mud of masculine longing. Hiegel fills every contour of the character with her own molten talents, capturing the very

essence of the land sweetened by the fruits of marital love and soured by maternal grief. She alone, is the stuff that Berkoff is made of, combining cultivated eroticism with backseat sex, erudition with gutter-talk.

Judith Magre's natural theatrical flamboyance and penchant for daring dramatic curiosities, is misplaced as Eddy's mother, but comes into her own as the Sphinx. A cardinal red serpent coiled inside a trenchcoat, she devours the feminist's tirade with diabolical relish. The Sphinx's soliloquy also guards some of the English syntax's spiciest flavours.

Least at home in this performance bulling is André Weber as the father. A sort of soft-centred, Frenchified Steptoe, who has the air of someone who wished he had stayed at home. His timid performance is not aided by the need to hoist up his too-large trousers, a play which annoys.

DIANE HILL

FESTIVAL

Prague Spring

WHEN Rafael Kubelik left his native Czechoslovakia in 1948 at the age of 32, his celebrity almost matched that of his father Jan Kubelik, the well-known violinist.

For he had already become conductor of the Czech Philharmonic, one of the world's greatest orchestras. He had also helped found *The Prague Spring*, which after 44 years remains one of the world's major musical festivals. After the Communist coup in 1948, Kubelik, citing Wilhelm Furtwängler's illusory belief that he could suppress the devil, turned his back on orchestra and homeland to begin 42 years in exile.

He became musical director of some major organizations (The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, New York Metropolitan, The Chicago Symphony, Munich's Bavarian Radio Symphony) and conducted and recorded with the world's greatest orchestras. His fame in exile proliferated, but

when he returned to open this year's Prague Spring, two generations of his fellow Czechs had grown up ignorant of his name. One recalled occasions over the decades when Kubelik explained his voluntary exile by saying he had abandoned his country in order not to abandon his nation.

The Prague Spring always begins on the anniversary of the death of Bedřich Smetana, the father of Czech music, with the Czech Philharmonic playing all six movements (including "The Moldau") of Smetana's cycle *My Homeland*. Arthritis had suspended Kubelik's conducting career five years ago, and when he walked on stage slowly, the audience leapt to its feet. His radiant face transfigured, the 75-year-old conductor interrupted the ovation to launch the orchestra into the fanfare from Smetana's opera *Libuse*. At its climax, there appeared in the honour box overlooking the stage that sly master of theatrical effects, President Václav Havel.

Kubelik interrupted the cheering to conduct the Czech and Slovakian national anthems. The

conductor and all his men, (this orchestra still has no female members), sported the impish logo of President Havel's Civic Forum political movement.

Such an emotionally charged occasion endangers the reliability of any purely musical essay, but the six Smetana tone-poems, which followed sounded fresher, and more full of vigour than before. One came aware of having experienced a moving historical and political event.

So much has happened in every area of Czechoslovakian life since that pivotal political demonstration last October 17, The Prague Spring's hastily revised printed schedule cancelled the Prague Symphony's concert the following evening. The fact that it had divided its programme between Beethoven and Václav Kucera, a politically active pre-Havel composer, may have had something to do with the cancellation.

A recital brought together two of France's most brilliant younger musicians, Raphaël Oleg and Pascal Rogé, and afforded a rare occasion to hear all three Brahms sonatas for two instruments.

This year's Prague Spring celebrated the centenary of Bohuslav Martinů. Coinciding with an international Martinů congress, Prague brought together productions of all his operas. In the latter category belonged the only one during my visit, his last, *Ariadne*. Its National Theatre production, reportedly brilliant two years ago, merited one word before all others: tired. The same company did much better with two Janáček operas, *Mr Brouček's Excursions* and *From the House of the Dead*—neither of them new, but perceptibly spruced up to qualify them, unlike *Ariadne*, as official offerings of the Prague Spring.

After Kubelik's current sojourn, he will divide his year between Lucerne and the south western American desert, which provides a balm for his arthritis. In the second week of June, to celebrate Czechoslovakia's first free election in 42 years, he will repeat his last concert before he went into exile in 1948, conducting all three of the leading orchestras of the Czech, Slovakian and Moravian areas of his native land.

PAUL MOOR

The Concise Crossword can be found on Page 13

WORD-WATCHING

DOUP
(b) The bottom section of an egg-shell, the buttocks, the bottom or end of anything, from *ONDUP* a hollow: "Cantor and Pollux bore of the doup of that Egg which was laid by Leda."

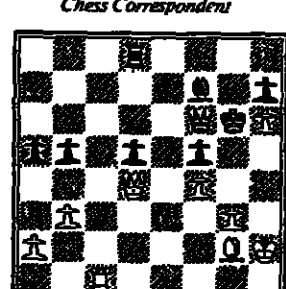
THESMOTHE
(b) A law-giver, especially one of the six junior archons in ancient Athens. Also a person who enforces law & then a person: Thomas Hardy: "Then this small thesmothete stepped from the table, and surged out."

CAVENDISH
(b) Tobacco moistened and pressed into small round cakes, possibly from the original manufacturer: "Men read *The Times* daily, just as they smoke cavendish."

KULA
(b) The sacred, endless process of presenting in the Trobriand Islands, symbolic commerce involving the exchange of information rather than of goods and services, first recorded by Malinowski.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent



This position is from the game Fajer (White) - Mate (Black), Budapest 1989. Can you spot White's brilliant winning continuation? Solution in tomorrow's *Times*. Solution to yesterday's position: 1... f5-f1 2 e6f5 3 Kh4 Qh5 mate.

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BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY MAY 30 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

New bank is hailed by French president

From NEIL BENNETT
IN PARIS

PRESIDENT Francois Mitterrand of France hailed the foundation of "a major world institution" at the signing of the constitution of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Paris.

Representatives of the 40 member states, including Mr John Major, the Chancellor, and Mr Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, signed the EBRD's constitution.

Afterwards President Mitterrand called the bank: "A bridge between the capital and know-how of the West and the people and industries of Eastern Europe... it is imperative to reach out a helping hand."

The EBRD will be based in London and have a capital of £10 billion (£7.3 billion). The Russians have taken a 4 per cent stake in the bank but, following US pressure, have agreed not to apply for more capital than they have contributed.

Mr Victor Geraschenko, chairman of the state bank, said he hoped this restriction would soon be lifted.

Westland up
Westland's pre-tax profits jumped by 44 per cent to £1.5 million during the six months to March and earnings per share by 69 per cent to 5.4p. The dividend is maintained at 1.25p. *Tempus, page 25*

Logica warns
Logica saw its shares tumble 80p to 219p in the wake of a warning that year-end profits were "now expected to be significantly below market forecasts." *Tempus, page 25*

Co-op cheerful
Delegates to the Co-operative Congress ended their weekend conference feeling that 20 years of gradual decline may have bottomed out. *Co-op future, page 25*

THE POUND
US dollar 1.6950 (+0.0050)
W German mark 2.8340 (-0.0069)
Exchange index 88.9 (-0.2)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1823.3 (+23.3)
FT-SE 100 2295.6 (+30.0)
New York Dow Jones 2851.76 (+30.84)
Closing Prices ... Page 27

INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15-15 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.75-7.74%
30-year bonds 101-101 1/2%

CURRENCIES
London: New York: £/\$1.6950
€/\$1.6360
DM/\$1.6720
SwF/\$1.4056
FF/\$5.3352
Yen/\$150.16
Index: 88.9
ECU £0.725240 SDR £0.709850
ECU1.378553 SDR1.280491

GOLD
London: Gold: AM \$383.35 pm \$387.70
close \$387.25-387.75 (£218.75-217.25)
New York: Comex \$367.30-367.80*

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Jul) \$16.45 bbl (\$16.85)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES
Bank Bank
Buyer Seller
Australia \$ 2.04 2.05
Austria Sch 13.75 13.85
Belgium Fr 61.15 61.25
Canada \$ 1.20 1.21
Denmark Kr 11.28 11.38
Finland Mk 6.97 6.97
France Fr 9.50 9.50
Germany DM 2.94 2.94
Greece Dr 283.75 283.75
Hong Kong \$ 13.50 13.50
Ireland P 1.00 1.00
Italy Lit 207.0 207.0
Japan Yen 200.50 200.50
Norway Kr 4.75 4.75
Portugal Esc 200 200
South Africa Rd 6.70 6.70
Spain Ptas 166 166
Sweden Kr 10.00 10.00
Switzerland Fr 2.40 2.40
Turkey Lira 1.77 1.77
USA \$ 1.63 1.63
Yugoslavia Dnr 23.75 23.75

Euro railways reject free access to track

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

WESTERN Europe's railways have welcomed proposals by Brussels to make their networks more competitive, but have rejected the separation of infrastructure management and commercial operations as well as free access to the networks by any operator.

They called such ideas "surrogates for real solutions," and said they would lead to politicians sitting in the place of the railway management. Instead, governments should invest massively in rail systems to save energy, protect the environment, develop the high-speed network and prepare to unify the rail systems of East and West Europe.

A conference of the Community of European Railways, comprising the networks of the 12 European Community members plus Austria and Switzerland, broadly welcomed the controversial proposals of Mr Karel Van Miert, EC transport commissioner, to boost rail and make it more competitive by opening national systems to competition.

Mr Leo Ploeger, director-general of Netherlands Railways and chairman of the group, said it was legitimate to ask railways to be more efficient and improve the quality of international transport. But national decisions had to be made in each country. He

agreed railways had to be more competitive, but this could be done by obliging other forms of transport to bear their own external costs. Railways could and should be profitable, but only if the social element of their operations was translated into economic terms and quantified.

Separating management of the track and commercial operations would make the competition with road and other transport more equal, but it would not solve the other demands on rail, including environmental demands. And while free access to the infrastructure could boost competitiveness, so could existing co-operation between railway companies.

The conference said the opening of Eastern Europe made it essential to look at a unified rail system for all Europe. But the cost of bringing the dilapidated networks of the East up to competitive commercial standards was enormous. Dr Reinhold Gohlke, president of West Germany's Bundesbahn, said it would cost DM100 billion (£35 billion) just to get the railway system of East Germany into proper shape.

Western Europe, meanwhile, was moving ahead with high-speed lines, especially the north European line from London, via the Channel Tunnel, to Paris and to Germany via Brussels. Work was

on schedule with a high-speed line from Madrid to Seville, Milan to Rome and across the Great Belt in Denmark, joining all parts of the country with a fixed link by 1993.

The rail group's leaders spoke at a press conference of the disadvantage hampering full use of the Channel Tunnel by European rail freight trucks - the smaller loading gauge of the British network. They noted Britain had begun widening tunnels and other improvements on certain trunk routes. But for the immediate future continental trucks could not run on British tracks, and all freight would have to be transported in specially built trucks, to the great competitive disadvantage of continental rail systems.

The rail leaders said they envisaged one day the operation of joint private companies over the London-Cologne-Frankfurt route. But they said the route from the Channel Tunnel to London was an essential element, and that forecasts showed it would quickly become overloaded. Mr Ploeger said: "Investment on a significant scale will only be possible if we develop European networks, and not if we submit unprofitable lines for financing. Room must therefore be created for European railway co-operation, even where this involves a loss of national autonomy."

Kitcat & Aitken closes with 125 redundancies

By STEPHEN LEATHER

KITCAT & Aitken, the City stockbroker, was shut down last night with 125 redundancies. Royal Bank of Canada's RBC Dominion Securities International announced that Kitcat & Aitken and RBC Kitcat, its British market-making subsidiary, would cease operating immediately.

The firm said all outstanding transactions would be completed over the next few weeks and blamed the closure on overcapacity in the British securities industry. Of the jobs lost, about 25 are in research, 25 in sales and 10 are market-makers.

Mr John Sanders, the chairman of RBC Dominion Securities International, said Kitcat & Aitken was "a low-cost producer and at the top of the second tier of British stockbroking houses."

Kitcat & Aitken had cut its staff from more than 200 at the time of Big Bang and had been breaking even for the past 20 months.

Mr Sanders said: "We had a systematic cutting back. We

had hoped that a lot of overcapacity would disappear and that the industry would rationalize itself, but this hasn't happened. There is still a huge overcapacity and we think it will take between three and five years to sort itself out."

Royal Bank of Canada, one of Canada's largest banks, announced a restructuring two years ago, combining its London investment banking activities with those of Dominion Securities, the Canadian securities firm in which it bought a majority stake for Can\$385 million (£183 million).

Royal and Dominion were combined to form RBC Dominion Securities in Toronto, with its international activities run from London by a subsidiary, RBC Dominion Securities International.

The combined operation replaced Orion Royal Bank as the international banking arm of the Royal group and also incorporated Kitcat & Aitken, Orion, which Royal took over

in 1981, had already cut its businesses after pulling out of the Eurobond market.

Mr Sanders, previously chairman of Orion Royal Bank, became chairman of the London unit. He said RBC Dominion Securities International will continue to concentrate on its core businesses - the underwriting, distribution and trading of Canadian shares and bonds, and mergers and acquisitions activity and corporate finance.

The redundancies are the latest in a series of City cutbacks. In January, Citicorp closed almost all of Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, its British broker, with the loss of up to 140 jobs, and County NatWest cut 79 jobs. In November, Alexander Leung & Cruickshank closed its equity market-making operations, with a loss of up to 20 jobs. In December 1988, 450 jobs were lost with the closure of Morgan Grenfell's stockbroking unit.

Comment, page 25

New UB terms agreed

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

UNITED Biscuits has conceded a 12 per cent rise in the value of its offer for Koninklijke Verke, the Dutch biscuit and chocolate confectionery group, to defuse the opposition of a group of Dutch investors.

The investors' group, which spoke for 45 per cent of Verke shares, stopped the £83 million offer succeeding when it closed last Friday.

After negotiations with Van Meer James Capel, the Dutch

securities group acting for the investors, the offer has been raised from £1 400 (£125) to £1 447 per Verke share.

The rebel investors have agreed to accept the new offer. This values Verke at £93 million, but the effective cost to UB is £91 million since it had already bought a 22 per cent stake.

UB shares rose by 5p to 345p.

Comment, page 25

Walker accepts boardroom roles

Mr Peter Walker, who recently resigned as Welsh Secretary and was then criticized for accepting a non-executive directorship of the City securities firm Smith New Court, is taking up two further boardroom appointments.

He is becoming a non-executive director of Rothchild Wales, the Cardiff-based branch of the merchant bank NM Rothschild, and of Worcester Group, a boiler and heating manufacturer.

City Diary, page 25

Shell drive takes Reid to BR



CHEER FOR CHILDREN: Bob Reid, chairman of Shell, launches the second Bafta/Shell Great British Film Rally - to include Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (centre) - in London yesterday as his last function before becoming head of British Rail. The rally, to take place in August, aims to raise £100,000 for the Save the Children Fund.

Managers may buy Mecca casinos

By JOHN BELL
CITY EDITOR

MECCA Leisure, the holidays, bingo and catering group, is exploring the possibility of a management buyout for its four remaining London casinos.

Mr Michael Guthrie, the chairman, confirmed that Mr Alan Goodenough, who runs the casinos, had relinquished day-to-day management responsibilities to concentrate on assembling finance for the deal.

He said that Mecca would retain its provincial casino interests.

"We have made no secret of our willingness to part with the London operations. The management has a few weeks to put proposals to the board," said Mr Guthrie.

There had also been some interest from other would-be buyers, Mr Guthrie added. A successful buyout would make a sizeable dent in Mecca's debt burden, which hit the shares and sent shock-waves through the leisure sector when the group revealed 1989 profits of £91 million in April.

Gearing at the year-end totalled 110 per cent of shareholders' funds and Mr Guthrie has indicated that Mecca's objective is to reduce this to about 60 per cent this year.

Subject to Gaming Board approval, the Claremont Club in Mayfair has been sold provisionally to Bally, the Swiss group, for £30 million. Sources close to Mecca suggest that a price of £85 million to £90 million would be acceptable but pricing the clubs on offer is difficult due to the depressed state of the business.

The flagship of Mecca's London casinos is the Victoria, one of the largest in Europe, which is being sold with a freehold. Maxims, also with a freehold, the Connoisseur and the Gloucester complete the buyout package.

As a further part of its de-gearing exercise, Mecca has already decided to offer for sale its Character Hotels chain. Merchant banker Samuel Montagu is handling the sale of the 16 strong chain. Initial offers must be in by early June.

Mecca shares rose 3p to 86p on the news.

Cadbury Schweppes to pay £125m for Perrier interests

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

CADBURY Schweppes is buying the bulk of the soft drinks interests of Source Perrier, the French mineral water group, for £125 million in cash.

The deal will turn the confectionery and drinks group into France's second largest soft drinks group after Coca-Cola, increasing its 63 per cent market share to about 16 per cent.

Cadbury Schweppes' French production volume of 130 million litres will rise to more than 300 million after the acquisition. The brands bought include Oasis, a still fruit drink, and Atoll, a fruit drink concentrate, as well as the bottling rights for Gini, a lemon drink.

Consumption of soft drinks in France is only half that in Britain and a quarter of that in the US, although French consumption of mineral water, wine and spirits is greater. Industry experts say the French market is conservative, with a steady annual

growth of about 5 per cent, although this is higher for still drinks, partly because they are considered to be healthier.

The Perrier deal marks another stage in Cadbury Schweppes' attempt to establish itself as a leading European drinks company. In October, it bought Citresa, a Spanish group.

In Britain, Cadbury Schweppes has a total market share of 24 per cent, partly as a result of bottling rights for Coca-Cola. The British soft drinks market is under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. In France, the Perrier deal takes the number of Cadbury Schweppes' plants to five.

The Perrier acquisition price, of which 75 per cent is due on completion, will be financed through borrowings. The turnover of the business was £872 million (£91.3 million) last year, with operating profits of £172 million. Cadbury Schweppes shares rose 13p to 347p.

Economy growth slows down

By RODNEY LORD
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE economy grew by 0.4 per cent in the first quarter of the year - slower than in the previous quarter.

Gross domestic product on the basis of output was provisionally estimated by the Central Statistical Office at 117.3 (1985=100) seasonally adjusted, compared with a revised figure of 116.8 in the final quarter of last year. Compared with a year earlier, output in the first quarter was 1.5 per cent higher.

The equivalent figure for the previous quarter was 2 per cent and for the first quarter of 1989, 3.4 per cent.

Output of both manufacturing and services rose by 1 per cent during the first quarter this year, but a decline in coal production and the effect of storms in the North Sea cut energy output 3 per cent. The production industries' overall result was no change.

The output data are the first available indication of growth in the economy and are regarded by the CSO as the most reliable indicator of growth in the short term.

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Tunstall directors abandon bid plans

By JEREMY ANDREWS

SHARES in Tunstall Group fell 50p to 140p on the news that the executive directors have abandoned plans to make a bid for the company.

Mr Michael Dawson, the executive chairman, who, with his family, owns 42 per cent of the equity, said that the executive directors were unable to agree a price with SG Warburg, which was advising the board on the terms.

The shares, which peaked at 480p before the crash, had sunk to 120p this month before the buyout proposal was announced.

Mr Dawson declined to comment on whether he had sounded out the Coal Board pension funds and Scottish Amicable, which hold stakes of 9 per cent and 54 per cent respectively. The shares are

now exactly back in line with the striking price of the tender offer when the company came to the USM seven years ago.

Since then, Tunstall has tried to reduce its dependence on its main business of making emergency communications equipment for the elderly after gaining a high share of the local authority sheltered accommodation market.

Tunstall's pre-tax profits fell from £4.97 million to £3.11 million in 1988-89 after losses of £2 million at its former Ademco subsidiary, which distributes security equipment.

There was also a discrepancy of £360,000 between book and actual stock levels at Tana-Synchroma.

Ademco was sold to the

Gardiner Group for £2.2 million in December.

Yesterday's announcement was accompanied by good news on the trading front.

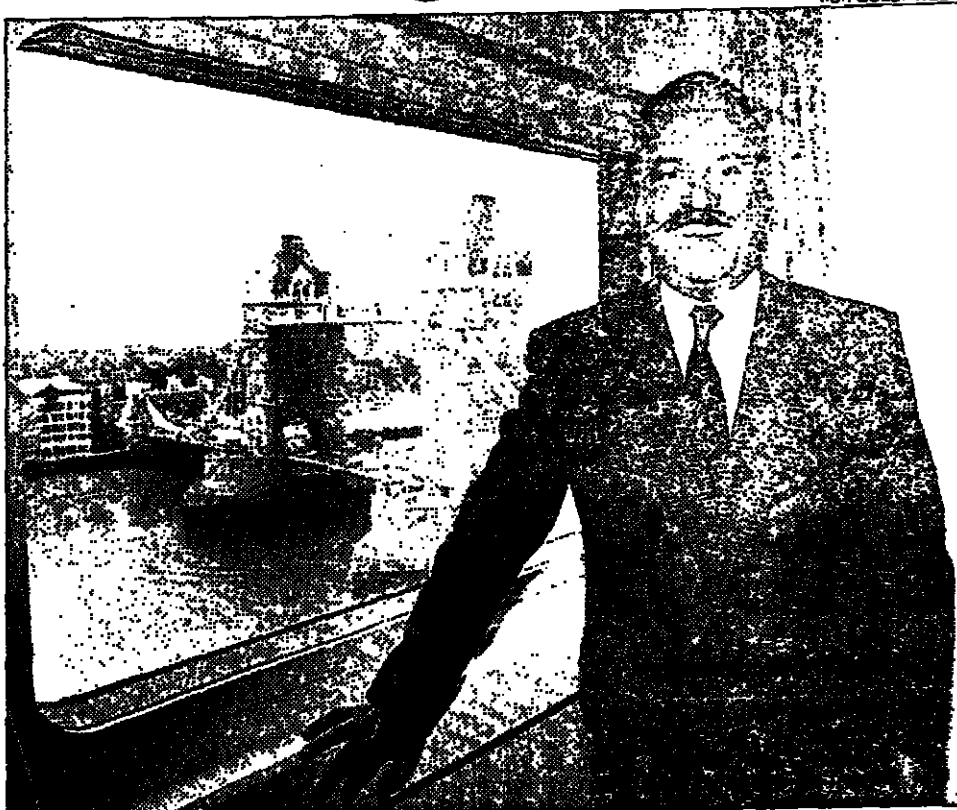
Tunstall's pre-tax profits recovered from £1.68 million to £2.84 million in the six months to March on a turnover only 1 per cent up at £24.6 million due to the elimination of Ademco's losses and a fall in the interest charge.

Earnings per share jumped by 63 per cent to 11.1p and the interim dividend is to go up by 0.25p to 2p.

Tunstall said that the executive directors might consider bidding again, but did not intend to do so before the end of September — except in the event of a material change in circumstances.

Ritz designs 26% rise

NICK GOLDFINGER



Running a tight ship: Michael Bancroft, who says costs are strictly controlled

Pre-tax profits at Ritz Design Group, the women's clothing manufacturer which supplies Marks and Spencer, were ahead by 26 per cent to £2.05 million in the year to end-March, despite a difficult trading environment (Philip Pangalos writes).

The company benefited from investment in new manufacturing techniques and

technology and improved operating efficiencies. Sales advanced by 38 per cent to £33.2 million, with Marks and Spencer accounting for 67 per cent of production.

Earnings per share climb by 29 per cent to 14.7p. The final dividend is improved to 2.67p, making a total of 4p (2p) for the year.

Mr Michael Bancroft, the

chairman and chief executive, said Ritz has performed better than most of its competitors. He said: "We run a tight ship, with a strict control of costs."

Mr Bancroft added that Ritz is strongly committed to growth, organically and by acquisition. He said the current year has started well. Interest payments jumped from £155,000 to £742,000.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Wickes chief gives warning on profits

PROFITS are slipping at Wickes, the DIY and building materials group. Mr Henry Sweetbeam, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that profits for the first half of 1990 would be lower than for the same period last year.

The group had closed three production units so far this year, which would benefit its second half. In the first half of 1989, Wickes made pre-tax profits of £15 million on sales of £345 million. For all of 1989, pre-tax profits came in at £38.1 million. Analysts had been looking for about £44 million for the current year. Shares in Wickes plunged 21p to 169p initially but by the end of the day had recovered all the lost ground to close at 190p.

Takeovers lift Amer buys Belgian firm

PRE-TAX profits at Brewmaker, the homebrew kit-to-residential healthcare group, surged from £130,000 to £497,000 in the year to end-January. The figures benefited from acquisitions and an exceptional credit of £154,000 from the sale of surplus premises. Earnings per share jumped by 224 per cent to 0.55p. There is a final dividend of 0.1p, making 0.2p (nil).

AMER Group, the Finnish consumer products group, is expanding its European business through the acquisition of Papeteries Norbert Bovy, a Belgian paper wholesaler, from the Dutch VRF Group for the sum of Bfr210 million (£3.6 million). Papeteries Norbert Bovy has its headquarters in Brussels and has a 6 per cent share of the market in Belgium.

Impshire losses soar

PRE-TAX losses more than doubled at Impshire Thoroughbreds, the Irish horse breeder and bloodstock investor, from Ir£1.21 million to Ir£2.6 million (£2.45 million) in 1989. The loss is mainly due to a write-down in the value of bloodstock and the death of Prince of Dance.

Impshire made an operating loss of Ir£305,000, compared with a profit of Ir£436,000. The loss per share worsened from 26p to 35.6p. Once again, there is no dividend. However, Impshire says it has a holding of bloodstock with good racing prospects.

Southnews profit down

THE fall in advertising revenue persisted in the second half at Southnews, the local newspaper publisher based in London and the Home Counties, leaving pre-tax profit for the year to March £937,000 lower at £1.9 million on turnover 5 per cent ahead at £19.1 million. Eps were 30 per cent down at 8.65p, but an unchanged final dividend of 3.2p maintains the total at 4.8p.

Downturn at Petaling Tin

PETALING Tin, the Malaysian dredging group, suffered lower production, lower sales, and a lower world tin price in the six months ended April 30. Operating profit fell from MR9.62 million (£2.1 million) to MR2.24 million, and net attributable profit from MR5.32 million to MR662,000. The board might declare a dividend when results for the year are known.

Scrip issue by Rolfe

ROLFE & Nolan Computer Services, the USM computer bureau and software group, reports a 51 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £1.14 million for the year to end-February. The company is proposing a one-for-one scrip issue. Turnover was ahead by 42 per cent to £5.46 million, boosted by strong growth in licence sales — particularly in Continental Europe. Earnings per share rose by 48 per cent to 27.6p. The final dividend is 5.4p (3.5p), making 8.6p (5.6p). Mr Tim Hearley, the chairman, said the current year has started well. The shares climbed by 7p to 255p on the news.

Chief for Shearson brokerage

From a CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Express has tightened its grip on Shearson Lehman Hutton, its investment bank subsidiary, with the appointment of Mr Jonathan Linen as head of its stockbroking and asset management operations.

The move also confirms the split of the investment bank's stockbroking and corporate advisory operations.

Mr Linen, at present head of the travellers' cheques group at American Express, takes charge of the United States' second largest broking firm, with 10,000 brokers and \$90 billion under management.

American Express has poured \$1.3 billion into its troubled investment banking unit, which was responsible for its record first-quarter loss of \$915 million this year.

American Express had planned to cut its 62 per cent stake in Shearson but when the full extent of its problems became clear it moved to take 100 per cent control. This does not rule out a sale of the separate divisions later.

Euro deal for toxic waste firm

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE British company Rechem Environmental Services and Ecodoco of Italy have signed one of the first European cross-border deals in the field of toxic waste incineration.

The firms signed a joint venture agreement to build an incineration plant in Italy. Ecodoco, based in Pavia, northern Italy, has until the end of 1993 to find a site and obtain approval for the plant. Rechem, which operates high-temperature waste incineration plants in Pontypool, Gwent, and Fawley, Hampshire, has the option to design and construct the plant at an estimated cost of £12 million.

Mr Paul Kaye, Rechem's finance director, said: "This particular industry is only just about to grow up. Waste is a global problem and therefore it is natural for companies like ours which have the technology to look for incineration sites throughout Europe."

Although expensive, high-temperature incineration is one of the safest methods of dealing with toxic waste.

Move may signal parent's return

Drexel unit files for bankruptcy

From JOHN DURIE, NEW YORK

DREXEL Burnham Lambert, the brokerage subsidiary of the Drexel Burnham Lambert Group, has filed for bankruptcy, signalling a possible return of the firm in a much diminished form.

The parent group filed for bankruptcy in February and said it planned to liquidate its operations.

But recent reports have indicated that Mr Fred Joseph, Drexel's chief, plans to attempt to revive the firm.

Mr Steve Anreder, a spokesman for Drexel, said that the parent company intended to file a plan for reorganization as early as mid-June.

In court filings recently Drexel said the brokerage operations had assets of \$3.1 billion and liabilities of \$2.8 billion at April 30.

At the time of the parent's bankruptcy filing, the brokerage unit had assets of \$54 billion concentrated in the troubled junk bond sector.

Mr Joseph plans to con-

centrate on managing the remaining junk bond portfolio and providing advice to corporations which issued junk bonds.

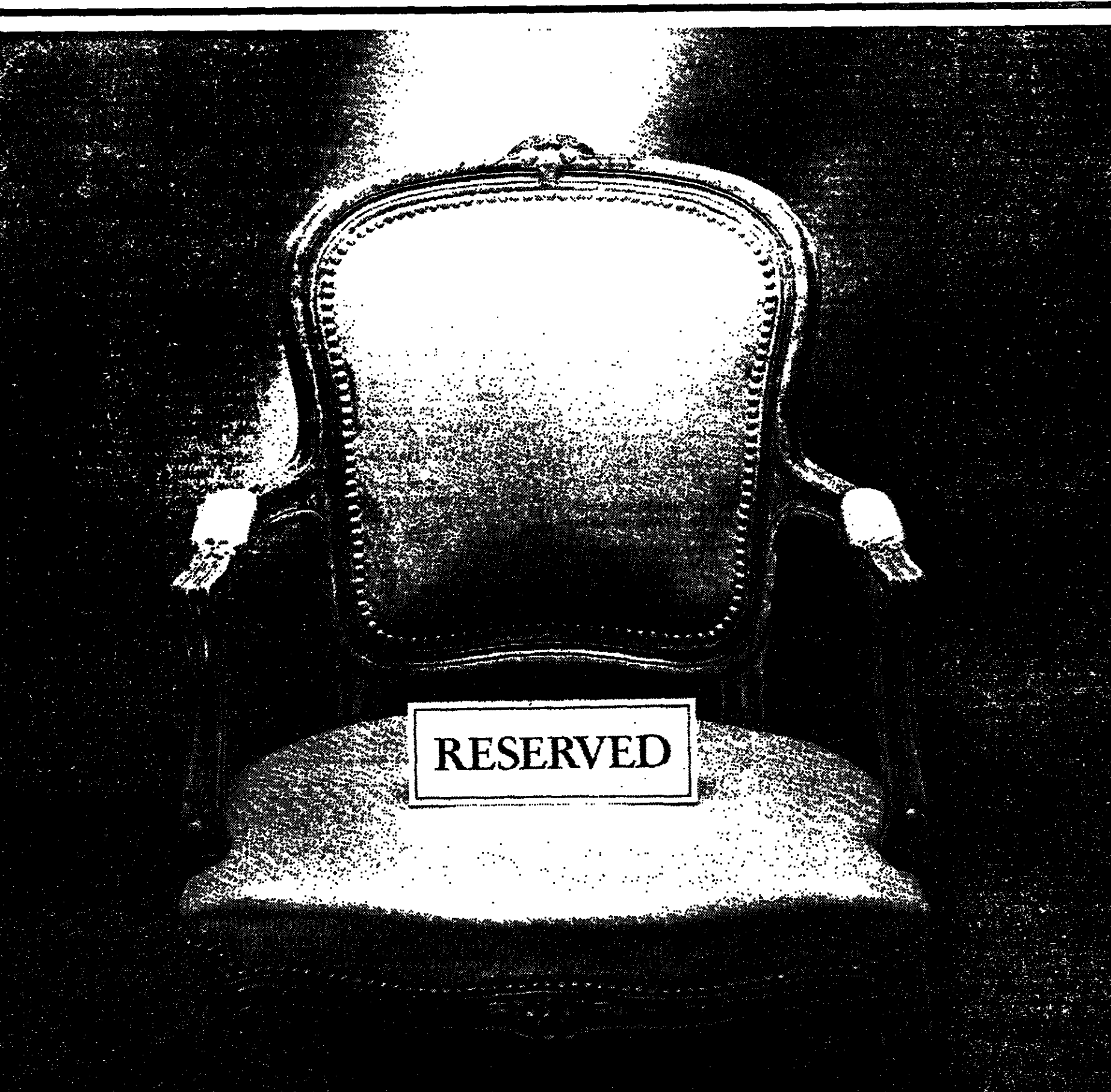
At its peak, Drexel had 5,400 employees and more than 75 per cent of the \$200 billion US junk bond market.

Mr Michael Milkin, its star, was responsible for financing the rash of corporate takeovers in the last decade.

Last month, Mr Milkin pleaded guilty to six counts of securities law violations, paid a \$600 million penalty and faces a possible five-year jail term when he is sentenced on October 1.

In 1988, Drexel paid \$650 million in penalties as part of a settlement of six felony charges which had been filed against the firm.

This fine, combined with the fall in the US junk bond market, resulted in the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing made by the parent company in February.



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COMBINED HEAT AND POWER SEMINARS

Canadians make the break with Kitcat

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

One by one, the great old names of British stockbroking go down, victims to owners which were more obsessed with the need to buy than with the skill to know what they were buying or why they were buying it. There never was any real sense in the Royal Bank of Canada owning a London securities house, but in the rush to be part of Big Bang, Kitcat & Aitken was snapped up as if stockbrokers were going out of fashion. This morning, Kitcat & Aitken is no more.

The closure came, according to one of the senior analysts who last night lost his job, "as a bolt from the blue," but the writing was already on the wall. Like virtually every other major London securities house, there was insufficient business to support the level of overheads and show a profit. Within Kitcat, executives comforted themselves on the not inconsiderable achievement of breaking even in the most difficult environment for 20 years. It was also felt the company has differentiated itself sufficiently, in remaining an agency broker specializing in

institutional business, to survive. Royal Bank was not able to share the view. Many would agree with the conclusions of an internal study by the bank that an acceptable return on London stockbroking was not likely in the next half decade.

The departure of second division players, such as Kitcat and a string of others who have withdrawn hurt over the past two years, will make life easier for those few big houses which are likely to see the recession through. That said, there are still many firms, now subsidiaries of disappointed parents, who find themselves wondering why they ever thought stockbroking a good game in which to partake in the first place, who are working through their figures hoping to come to a different conclusion to that reached by Royal Bank of Canada.

It is no longer a matter of cutting costs. Kitcat had been trimming back steadily and was

believed to be one of the lowest cost firms in the City. It is a matter of assessing whether at the end of the recession the returns are ever likely to be worth the investment.

UB crunch

They do things differently in Holland when it comes to takeovers. United Biscuits was well aware of this. Indeed, the British group had a strong advantage when Koninklijke Verkade, the leading Dutch biscuits group, made a mental about-turn after moves to protect itself from takeover and decided that, if big was not necessarily beautiful, it was going to be vital

level and inspired talk of counterbids from third parties. In Holland, the disgruntled shareholders banded together under the leadership of Van Meer James Capel and simply stood out against the offer. UB did not find out that it was going to fall well short of control until its bid closed, since acceptances usually come through the main universal banks at the twelfth hour.

Having gone through the long preliminaries and mentally committed itself to the strategy implied by buying Verkade, UB was not going to walk away in a hurry. A weekend of negotiations produced a split-the-difference higher offer which has virtually assured success for UB. The price is expensive but will not hurt much in the short-term, given the size of the acquisition, and will make little difference in the long run given UB's plans for Verkade.

In Britain, management of Verkade would probably have

felt obliged to oppose a takeover to achieve an increased offer. The result is much the same. They do things differently in Holland, but not necessarily worse.

Rolled over

The heat is really being turned up under Molins, the tobacco machinery maker which seems to attract more than its fair share of takeover bids. Bid Number Six closes at one o'clock today, and with more than 44 per cent of the shares in the bag already, there is a good chance that Leucadia Group will push its stake beyond 50 per cent. If the offer lapses, Leucadia will demand the removal of three existing Molins non-executive directors and install five Leucadia nominees. Failing agreement, Leucadia will put the matter to the vote. One way or another, Leucadia will effectively be in control and Mr Neil Clarke, the chairman, will once again be looking for a new job. Shareholders who have resisted the temptation to accept the offer should waste no more time.

DELEGATES to the Co-operative Congress, the annual parliament of the co-operative movement, finished three days of deliberations in Glasgow yesterday, demonstrating that there is life yet in what is still Britain's biggest retailer.

It was the 121st Congress, and financial results showed that 20 years of gradual decline may have bottomed out.

The Co-op is made up of 80 independent retail societies ranging from one-shop rural societies to Co-operative Retail Services (CRS), the biggest, with a turnover of more than £1.3 billion a year.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), which like CRS is based in Manchester, is the biggest Co-op and has a turnover of £2.7 billion. The Co-operative Bank and the Co-operative Insurance Society (CIS) are part of CWS.

CRS has grown mainly through rescuing societies in trouble, and the same process brought CWS into retailing. CWS, with substantial interests in Scotland and the South-east, south of the Thames, had a retailing turnover of £800 million last year. CRS carries the flag north of the Thames. It is the Thames region, with its high-price fights, which is proving the toughest nut to crack.

The first six new-generation Co-op superstores were opened in the region and there are now about 80 of these in Britain. However, Mr Bill Anderson, this year's Congress president, disclosed that research had shown the Co-op was still dogged by a perception that it was old-fashioned and traditional.

The Co-op is 62 per cent reliant on food sales, which, given continued buoyancy in this trade, means results this year should stand up reasonably well.

The latest venture by CRS is to develop a chain of Home Worlds, of which five are open and 10 more are planned. Against national trends, Home World sales are still up by a quarter, according to Mr Harry Moore, the chief executive of CRS. The group pushed up its trading profits last year by 21 per cent and its profits-to-sales ratio rose from 3 per cent to 3.4 per cent.

Mergers may put Co-op on the right track for 1992



Home World comforts: Harry Moore, head of CRS

The CRS message for this year is that things are still looking "quite good." It lies well behind the likes of J Sainsbury and Tesco in returns on sales. Sainsbury and Tesco are both at about the 7 per cent mark on returns. Only a handful of Co-op societies are above the 4 per cent level, although the Channel Island society had a 7.9 per cent return last year.

new ground for the movement.

The North East is a strong society, making £7 million in trading profits last year, a return of 2.1 per cent. The region will run with considerable autonomy under its current management team, while gaining access to CWS cash to underpin a capital investment programme worth £40 million.

Investment capacity has been the Achilles' heel of many societies as they have attempted to compete with the other big grocery chains.

Sir Dennis said: "Other societies clearly will be watching the merger with interest. It could set a new pattern for the future." If other societies look to joining forces with CWS, the relationship will not necessarily mirror that of the North East arrangement, but will depend on individual circumstances, he added.

What worries many in the Co-op is that a merger of CWS and CRS seems as far away as ever. It leaves the danger that both will continue to take in increasingly large sections of Co-op retailing until two giants could virtually split the movement between them.

A big question in Co-op mergers is always who will run the shop. There is a chance for an easy transition for a CWS-CIS merger because Sir Dennis is due to retire in two years, leaving the way open for Mr Moore to take the chief executive role.

It remains to be seen whether the Co-op will be able to work its way through the complexities of its internal politics to seize the chance of being able to meet the competition on something like comparable terms. The game is not standing still. One of the final debates at Glasgow left delegates looking down the barrel of the single market gun in retailing and food manufacturing.

Continental manufacturers like France's BSN and Switzerland's Nestlé have shown the strength of the European threat. Aldi, the West German grocer which is not establishing itself in Britain, has also done so in retailing.

Derek Harris

Westland comes down to earth

INVESTORS in Westland can no longer take comfort from the belief that GKN will eventually use its 22 per cent stake to launch a bid.

The Soviet withdrawal in Eastern Europe has made such a bid highly improbable and raised the question whether the all-important EH101 naval helicopter—originally due to enter service in 1988—will be delayed further, or even cancelled. To make matters worse, the order expected from Saudi Arabia for 80 Black Hawk helicopters has failed to materialize.

All this knocked the shares back to 100p earlier this month, though they recovered to 108p on the better than expected first-half results. Pre-tax profits were 44 per cent ahead, from £8 million to £11.5 million in the six months to March, and earnings per share were 69 per cent up at 5.4p. The improvement was partly due to a £1.1 million fall in the interest charge and partly to the cutting of 400 jobs.

Unfortunately, the gap in Westland's workload was more evident than ever. Helicopter turnover fell a fifth to £128 million and deliveries plunged from 12 to five. The company expects deliveries to recover in the second half—at present there are orders for 30 machines all told. However, EH101 production needs to start in 1991.

With profits of £25.5 mil-

lion and earnings of 12.2p expected by brokers this year, the shares are on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 9. But they are not a bargain in the current political climate.

Logica

LOGICA, the computer software group, has a five-year jinx on it. Every fifth year of the past 20 years, something like a banana skin has fallen out of the cupboard and Logica has slipped on it.

In 1990, Logica is to suffer from sick US operations, which have run up interim losses of £1 million already and which are now headed for £3 million of losses for the year to end-June.

On top of that, there have been significant cost overruns on two projects (one British, one "elsewhere") which will probably need a £2 million provision.

The overall result is that market forecasts are not going to be met, and if £16 million had been the expectation, compared with an actual £18.8 million last year, then at best £9 million pre-tax is now on the cards for 1990.

The interim dividend was raised modestly to 1.1p, a move which suggested that the US problems were not going to be that serious.

Since last year's total payment was 6.45 times covered, there seems little reason why the final of 2.1p should not be maintained.

Logica has taken what it believes to be full action to get US operations back on the rails, and if the gods are with it the company should break even in the US in the first half of next year.

Meanwhile, the rest of the group is trading reasonably well.

With a share price down 80p at 219p yesterday, Logica is going to have to demonstrate a swift profits recovery before being loved by the market again.

Even after the fall, the p/e is a demanding 23.5, and potential investors will have to trust in luck that if the past really is any guide, then after previous slips Logica has bounced back.

Inchcape

EVERY fresh hard-line statement from Peking prompts a sharp drop in the Inchcape share price. And yet the group, unlike others, has been stepping up its operations in Hong Kong.

Inchcape has worked hard to maintain some kind of relationship with Peking in the belief that China cannot afford to destroy the strength and vitality of Hong Kong's economy. In any case, the downside for Inchcape is strictly limited.

Unlike the colony's other trading hongs, its business is by no means dominated by Hong Kong. Inchcape Pacific has been one of the group's

success stories, but still only contributes about 25 per cent of group profits, and much of its business is outside Hong Kong. It has, for instance, gained a foothold in the Japanese motor market through Mercedes Benz, is building in Korea and Taiwan, and has opened trading posts in Vietnam and Laos.

Inchcape has few physical assets in the colony. It has spun the most complex web of trading links throughout Asia, but it owns little property and no manufacturing interests in Hong Kong.

In an emergency the business could probably be handed from its other main Far Eastern base at Singapore without too much disruption. Warburg Securities, the house broker, is this week telling clients that while Hong Kong operations will probably continue to suffer from the political uncertainty, the group's closer links with Toyota in the UK, its exposure to the strong Pacific Rim economies, and healthy finances—gearing is likely to fall to 26 per cent this year, lifting interest cover to 11 times—make the shares attractive.

At 270p and anticipating £200 million pre-tax this year, raising EPS to 30.2p, according to Warburg, the shares sell for under nine times earnings, and should be worth picking up on the next Hong Kong shakeout.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Worcester

SOURCE

DEMONSTRATING his deft hand as a businessman, Peter Walker, who leaves his post as Secretary of State for Wales in July, has turned an initial investment of less than £10,000 in one of his constituency companies into a holding worth £540,000 at yesterday's closing stock market prices. Walker, who has become a non-executive director of both Rothchild Wales and Worcester Group, first came across Worcester's founding chairman, Cecil Duckworth, in 1968 when he opened Duckworth's first factory in his Worcester constituency. Almost forced out of business by the Yom Kippur war in 1973, and the consequent rise in the oil price, Worcester survived by switching its production from oil to gas boilers and refinancing itself with £30,000 in financial assistance from Walker and a consortium of four or five friends. "My wife and I had been to dinner with him and his wife on several occasions," recalls Duckworth, whose company is now capitalized at £45 million. "We had become friends and I told him that we were going to go to the banks. He offered to arrange a long-term investment himself—I couldn't believe my ears at the time because we were such a chancy business, but obviously he has done incredibly well." Walker, then an Opposition backbencher during Harold Wilson's government, still owns 450,000 Worcester shares.

TAXPAYERS

put on hold when they telephone the Winnipeg district taxation office in Canada, are obliged to listen to taped music... It's a Sin to Tell a Lie.

Worrying sheep

MAD cow disease is the least of their worries in New Zealand. The Accident Compensation Corporation there has released statistics which indicate those normally meek and docile creatures, sheep, are causing problems of a different kind. No fewer than 678 Kiwis claimed compensation last year after being attacked—battered, butted or beaten—by them. Six people had to go to hospital. But perhaps those figures are not so surprising when you bear in mind that New Zealand has a human population of 3.33 million and a sheep population of 60.8 million.

Marked difference

THE signing in Paris yesterday of the agreement for the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has cast a cloud of despondency over those individuals who have been striving for the past 17 years for Britain to host the EC trade marks office. For even though the EBRD is not within the gift of the EC—it is, after all, international, funded by 40 countries—mandarins in Brussels are understood to be using its imminent establishment in London as an excuse to allow the patent office to go elsewhere. "Britain is one of the biggest contributors to the EEC budget and yet no EEC

institution is based in Britain," complains John Murphy, chairman of Interbrand which creates and values brands—such as Hobnobs biscuits and Metro and Maestro cars—and who is also secretary of the Trade Marks Office Committee, a lobby group. "Although the ETMO itself will be quite small, creating perhaps 200 jobs, for each one of those jobs it will create at least 10 outside, and more importantly, it will create a sense of London being the intellectual property centre of Europe." Britain first put in its bid to host the ETMO in 1973, when it joined the EC, and it is one of four on the short list—the others being Munich, Madrid and Amsterdam. At the request of the Government, Taylor Woodrow, the developer, long ago set aside a prime 8,000 sq metre site in St Katharine Docks for the purpose. And latest word is that the Irish, whose six month presidency of the EC expires at the end of next month, are trying to get the highly sensitive issue put on to their agenda before then.

YUPPIES and Puppies have been replaced by a 1990 version of the acronym... Sitcoms. This stands for single income, two children, onerous mortgage.

Seat of earning

IT is indeed an ill wind which blows no good and creditors of the collapsed US firm Drexel Burnham Lambert can perhaps take some comfort from the fact that the notoriety of the firms disgraced junk bond king Michael Milken is help-

ing to bring in some money. A mystery bidder has just put in an undisclosed bid for the nerve centre of Milken's Beverly Hills dealing operations—his now famous X-shaped desk—which has been put up for auction along with other DBL assets, to help meet its debts. According to one report from across the Atlantic, a trader has already bought what purports to be the Milken chair, but those who knew him well are sceptical. DBL insiders say Milken rarely sat still anywhere, and could lay claim to any one of six chairs on the west coast and more still in New York.

Kagan site

CHESS-playing Lord Kagan, best remembered for his Gannex raincoats is being dogged by controversy again. Clearly not a man to let the grass grow under his feet, Kagan, who celebrates his 75th birthday on Derby Day and lives in a country mansion near Harrogate, has drawn up plans to stop it growing on a 27-acre site near the rural North Yorkshire village of Nun Monkton. But he is about to incur the wrath of a local action group. Kagan wants to develop the site as a circuit for speedway, go-karting and three-day eventing. Local GP Robert Porter, however, who will be meeting other protesters on Friday to draw up their line of attack, is adamant. "The idea is completely out of character with the area and must be stopped," he says.

Carol Leonard

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WALL STREET

'High risks' of being a writer

Real terms target
From Mr F. R. Hopkins
 Sir, The Forestry Commission has been given a target rate of return of 3 per cent in real terms on assets.
 The term as a percentage is constantly used these days. Would somebody kindly advise me in simple terms what exactly is meant?
 By real terms does one use a basic figure obtained by guess and by God and end up with a positive figure to a decimal point similar to the inflation percentage published by the Government.
 Yours truly,
 F. R. HOPKINS
 24 Third Avenue.

groups would be free to take commercial decisions on whether to demerge a part of their operations without the spectre of the tax-haven predator looking to quick tax-free profit rather than to long term commercial future.

Yours faithfully,
JILL C. PAGAN,
51 Lafone Street, SE1.

Time for a stand

From Mr J.C. Waterfield

Sir, It is about time businesses that, in effect, subsidize the users of plastic through the "commission" they pay for the "privilege" of being able to accept plastic took a firm and united stand against this legal form of extortion.

Five per cent on the Bill and to hell with Visa and their ilk.

Yours faithfully,
J.C. WATERFIELD,
16 Carlton Place,

Real terms target
From Mr F. R. Hopkins
 Sir, The Forestry Commission has been given a target rate of return of 3 per cent in real terms on assets.
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 24 Third Avenue.

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| Index | Value | Daily ch'ge (£) | Yearly ch'ge (£) | Daily ch'ge (¥) | Yearly ch'ge (¥) | Daily ch'ge (US\$) | Yearly ch'ge (US\$) |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| The World (free) | 739.0 | -0.2 | -12.4 | 0.1 | -7.0 | -0.3 | -8.1 |
| EAFC (free) | 131.0 | -0.2 | -12.6 | 0.1 | -7.2 | -0.3 | -8.2 |
| EAFC (free) | 1307.0 | -0.5 | -16.1 | -0.2 | -10.8 | -0.6 | -12.6 |
| Europe (free) | 154.0 | -0.5 | -16.4 | -0.3 | -11.1 | -0.6 | -12.3 |
| Europe (free) | 1,745.7 | 1.1 | 22.0 | 0.6 | 36.1 | 1.0 | 21.2 |
| Europe (free) | 160.1 | 1.2 | -2.1 | 0.5 | -1.1 | 1.1 | 2.8 |
| N. America (free) | 511.6 | 0.3 | -4.9 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| N. America (free) | 1579.9 | -0.1 | 1.5 | -0.6 | 3.8 | -0.2 | 6.5 |
| N. America (free) | 249.3 | 0.3 | 6.0 | -0.2 | 8.2 | 0.2 | 11.2 |
| Pacific (free) | 3071.5 | -1.6 | -24.1 | -0.8 | -15.7 | -1.7 | -20.3 |
| Pacific (free) | 4315.1 | -1.7 | -24.4 | -0.9 | -17.0 | -1.8 | -20.7 |
| Australia (free) | 253.9 | 1.0 | -15.4 | 0.8 | -8.5 | 0.9 | -11.2 |
| Australia (free) | 1791.6 | 1.4 | 20.6 | 0.8 | 25.0 | 1.3 | 26.5 |
| Belgium (free) | 896.2 | 1.2 | -9.0 | 0.6 | -7.6 | 1.2 | -4.5 |
| Canada (free) | 497.6 | -0.2 | -17.1 | -0.5 | -11.4 | -0.2 | -13.0 |
| Canada (free) | 139.6 | 0.5 | 16.6 | 0.3 | 19.6 | 0.6 | 16.6 |
| Denmark (free) | 168.9 | -0.3 | -14.3 | -0.7 | -12.7 | -0.4 | -10.0 |
| Finland (free) | 94.0 | 0.9 | -5.6 | 0.5 | -3.9 | 0.8 | -1.4 |
| France (free) | 827.3 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 0.4 | 4.6 | 0.9 | 7.4 |
| Germany (free) | 918.8 | 1.5 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 3.8 | 1.5 | 5.1 |
| Hong Kong (free) | 2299.5 | -0.3 | 3.7 | -0.4 | 8.5 | -0.4 | 8.8 |
| Italy (free) | 393.8 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 3.9 | 0.9 | 7.2 |
| Japan (free) | 4610.0 | -1.8 | -25.3 | -0.9 | -17.8 | -1.9 | -21.6 |
| Netherlands (free) | 874.1 | 1.0 | -7.6 | 0.5 | -4.4 | 1.0 | -3.0 |
| New Zealand (free) | 86.3 | 0.9 | -16.3 | 0.6 | -9.1 | 0.8 | -12.1 |
| Norway (free) | 1584.1 | 0.9 | 16.5 | 0.4 | 19.4 | 0.8 | 22.3 |
| Spain (free) | 271.9 | 0.8 | 16.4 | 0.4 | 19.2 | 0.7 | 22.1 |
| Singapore/Malay (free) | 19.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 5.0 |
| Spain (free) | 214.7 | 0.8 | -9.3 | 0.0 | -2.5 | 0.7 | -4.4 |
| Sweden (free) | 1772.6 | -0.5 | 1.1 | -1.0 | 3.7 | -0.6 | 6.1 |
| Sweden (free) | 257.6 | -0.3 | 6.4 | -0.7 | 9.2 | -0.3 | 11.7 |
| Switzerland (free) | 962.3 | 2.5 | 5.2 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.4 | 10.4 |
| Switzerland (free) | 145.8 | 2.7 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 0.3 | 2.6 | 9.6 |
| UK (free) | 680.4 | 1.0 | -5.6 | 1.0 | -5.6 | 0.9 | -1.0 |
| USA (free) | 464.7 | 0.3 | -3.8 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.9 |

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a car's hood and windshield. A newspaper supplement titled "THE TIMES car" is placed on the hood. The supplement features the headline "US host releases kidn..." and "THE CAR IN THE FUTURE". Below the headline is the sub-headline "What you'll be driving next century". The supplement also includes several small images of cars and a section titled "2001".

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this Saturday, free in *The Times*.

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| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ireland | 1,6040-1,8050 | Denmark | 9,3630-9,3680 | Italy | 72275-72285 |
| Singapore | 1,8450-1,8485 | W Germany | 1,6715-1,6712 | Bangkok (Com) | 34,39-34,34 |
| Malaysia | 2,6998-2,7008 | Switzerland | 1,4075+1,4085 | Hong Kong | 76995-7,7815 |
| Australia | 1,3048-1,3083 | Netherlands | 1,8795-1,8805 | Portugal | 44,20-147,40 |
| Canada | 1,1605-1,1616 | France | 5,8225-5,8275 | Spain | 104,00-104,10 |
| Sweden | 6,0805-6,0855 | Japan | 150,75-150,85 | Austria | 3,7241-3,725 |
| | | Germany | 150,75-150,85 | Greece | OTS |

| EURO MONEY DEPOSITS % | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Currency | 7 day | 1 month | 3 month |
| Dollar | 67-70 | 67-68 | 67-68 |
| Swiss Franc | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Deutsche Mark | 72-74 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| French Franc | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Italian Lira | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Spanish Peseta | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Portuguese Escudo | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Belgian Franc | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Dutch Guilder | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Japanese Yen | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| British Pound | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Other Currencies | 70-72 | 69-70 | 69-70 |
| Call 70-72 | | | |
| 7 day | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 1 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 3 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 6 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 9 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 12 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 15 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 18 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 21 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 24 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 27 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 30 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 33 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 36 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 39 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 42 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 45 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 48 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 51 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 54 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 57 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 60 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 63 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 66 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 69 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 72 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 75 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 78 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 81 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 84 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 87 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 90 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 93 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 96 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 99 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 102 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 105 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 108 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 111 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 114 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 117 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 120 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 123 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 126 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 129 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 132 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 135 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 138 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 141 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 144 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 147 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 150 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 153 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 156 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 159 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 162 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 165 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 168 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 171 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 174 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 177 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 180 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 183 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 186 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 189 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 192 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 195 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 198 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70-72 |
| 201 month | 70-72 | 70-72 | 70 |

[illegible]

| FT-SE 100 | Open | High | Low | Closes | Open | High | Low | Closes |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| Jun 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Three month ECU | 85.71 | 85.64 | 85.71 |
| Jul 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jun 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Aug 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jul 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Sep 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Aug 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Oct 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Sep 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Nov 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Oct 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Dec 80 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Nov 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jan 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Dec 80 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Feb 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jan 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Mar 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Feb 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Apr 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Mar 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| May 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Apr 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jun 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | May 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jul 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jun 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Aug 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jul 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Sep 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Aug 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Oct 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Sep 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Nov 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Oct 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Dec 81 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Nov 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jan 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Dec 81 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Feb 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jan 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Mar 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Feb 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Apr 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Mar 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| May 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Apr 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jun 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | May 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jul 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jun 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Aug 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jul 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Sep 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Aug 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Oct 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Sep 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Nov 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Oct 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Dec 82 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Nov 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Jan 83 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Dec 82 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Feb 83 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Jan 83 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Mar 83 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Feb 83 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| Apr 83 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | Mar 83 — 85.64 | 85.67 | 85.64 | 85.64 |
| May 83 — 2387.0 | 2382.0 | 2390.0 | 2378.0 | 2379.0 | | | | |

| LONDON FOX | | | LONDON METAL EXCHANGE | | |
|------------------------|----------------|------------|---|-----------------|---------------|
| COCOA Amt Futures | | | Official prices/volume previous day | | |
| May 199-925 | May 1000-1005 | (£/tonnes) | Cash | 3 month | 6 month |
| Jan 942-941 | Jan 1024-1022 | | | | |
| Apr 948-948 | | | Copper Gde A | 1591.0-123.0 | 1541.5-1512.5 |
| Oct 950-970 | | | Lead | 483.0-484.0 | 481.50-482.00 |
| COFFEES Amt Futures | | | Zinc Spec Hk | 1750.0-1758.0 | 1867.0-1900.0 |
| Jan 894-892 | May 700-705 | | Aluminium Hk | 3330-3400 | 6400-6500 |
| Jul 976-975 | Oct 720-724 | | Nickel | 1950.0-1958.0 | 1970.0-1977.0 |
| Nov 960-960 | May 2132 | | Steel | 1460-1460 | 8475-8500 |
| Dec 954-950 | | | (Cents per Troy oz.) (pips per £100) | | |
| SUGAR Amt Futures | | | LONDON MEAT & LIVESTOCK | | |
| Jan 958-958 | May 255-258 | | Average livestock prices (pence per lb) previous 5 days | | |
| Jul 975-9825 | Oct 2316-1326 | | Live Pig Contract | | |
| Nov 980-980 | May 298-0-98.0 | | Mth | Open | Close |
| Dec 980-980 | Oct 2316-1326 | | Jun | 134.0 | 135.5 |
| WHEAT Amt Futures | | | Jul | 134.0 | 135.5 |
| Jan 957-971 | May 237-0-96.0 | | Aug | 134.0 | 135.5 |
| Jul 976-976 | Oct 237-0-96.0 | | Sep | 134.0 | 135.5 |
| Nov 970-970 | | | Oct | 134.0 | 135.5 |
| Dec 970-970 | | | Nov | 121.8 | 121.4 |
| WHEAT (5000) (p/tonne) | | | Live Cattle Contract | | |
| Jan 11875 | May 117.80 | | Jun | unq. | - |
| Jul 11875 | Oct 121.00 | | Aug | unq. | - |
| Oct 12070 | May 124.50 | | Oct | unq. | - |
| Nov 11875 | Oct 121.00 | | Dec | unq. | - |
| Dec 11875 | May 127.40 | | Jan | unq. | - |
| Jan 11875 | Oct 121.00 | | Feb | unq. | - |
| Mar 12280 | May 128.90 | | Mar | unq. | - |
| BOYSSAN Amt Futures | | | Apr | unq. | - |
| Jan 12070 | Oct 121.00 | | May | unq. | - |
| Apr 1180-18.0 | Dec 125-5-27.0 | | Jun | unq. | - |
| May | Vol 30 | | Jul | Vol 78 Cattle-0 | |

071-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

071-481 4481

Continental Culture & Art...

Fabulous opening for a gregarious, articulate self-starter to join the busy, high-profile C20th European picture department of this world-famous Auction House. Working closely with the Director and Cataloguer - both charming, both very on-the-ball - your role will include lots of client contact and liaison with VIPs, dealers, co-ordinating travel, general secretarial back up. Good organising ability, sound secretarial skills (to include shorthand) and a confident, "go-getting" approach essential. French very useful. Salary to £12,500. 29+? Eager to learn as much as possible about the Art world? Call 071-493 5787.

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Recruitment Consultants

Blue skies, white sands...

£15,000 - Crawley

Our client is a major force in the UK Leisure industry. Currently enjoying a reputation second to none, a leading Board Director needs an independent-minded PA who can act on his/her own initiative and take early responsibility. Immensely interesting position - in addition to normal PA duties, you'll organise grand celebration "openings", liaise constantly with Europe and cope with a myriad of delegated projects. French, German, Spanish all very useful. Skills (90/60). Age 25+. Young, friendly atmosphere. For details, telephone 071-493 5787.

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No hassles. No let-downs. Just plain, simple high-grade tempering. A tasteful package of top jobs, elite rates and a thoroughly professional service. If you have sound skills and experience you should be talking to The Work Shop. Telephone today on 071-409 1232.

Recruitment Consultants

to the Communications Industry

THE WORK SHOP

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£15,000 + overtime etc.

Fascinating career opportunity for a motivated "muck-in" self-starter with this progressive, expanding WI consultancy. Working closely with the MD and Operations Manager - both very organised, calm and competent personalities - you need to be of a similar temperament: flourishing under pressure and thriving on total involvement. Responsibilities include setting up systems, client liaison, organising ad hoc conferences, personnel, accounts, payroll and the legal side of the business. A genuine interest in PR/Marketing essential. Skills (80/60). Age 25-30. Excellent prospects. Call 071-493 0713 to know more.

MERRYWEATHER ADVERTISING & SELECTION

MERRYWEATHER

SECRETARY & OFFICE JUNIOR

We are an international firm of architects, based in Marylebone, currently working on-site on the refurbishment and restoration of a five star hotel and vacancies exist for the following:

SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR
Ideally you will have a minimum of two years secretarial experience, excellent WP skills (Wordperfect preferable) and a minimum typing speed of 50 wpm combined with good communication skills and a sense of humour. Must be able to work on own initiative.

OFFICE JUNIOR
Willing and flexible person with common sense required to work for Architects Team. Some typing essential. Will cross-train on WP. Must be prepared to become involved in all aspects of office duties.

Salary Negotiable
Please apply in writing to:
Katrina Heroys
The Windsor Hotel Project Office
222 Marylebone Road
London NW1
(No agencies please)

SECRETARY, PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

Salary: £12,871 p.a. - review 1st July

We are the world's largest non-governmental organisation working in the field of planned parenthood and related health services, and are seeking an experienced secretary.

If you are seeking an interesting and varied position then look no further, we require an experienced Secretary to join our busy Personnel and Administration Department, where you will carry out a range of secretarial and administrative tasks.

Applicants should be educated to 'O' level standard to include English language, together with secretarial training to PSA Stage 3 or equivalent. Good shorthand skills (80 wpm) and word processing skills (preferably Wordperfect) are essential, together with a flexible and friendly disposition.

Salary £12,871 p.a. with a review in July, plus attractive benefits package i.e. 28 days holiday, free private medical insurance, four-week season ticket, pension fund, life assurance, health care programme.

Please send CV to Personnel Department, IPPF, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 or telephone for application form on 071-486 0741 ext 7943. In view of the large anticipated response, only short-listed applications will be acknowledged.

Closing date: Monday 11th June, 1990.

IPPF is an Equal Opportunities Employer

INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION

Media Spotlight

Fed up with a routine secretarial job in a stuffy company?

At Finesse we can offer you one-off career opportunities as individual as yourself.

As a top-notch secretary in the highly innovative and successful UK corporation you will have a frontline role maintaining the company's pristine reputation.

Constant corporate expansion means handling a range of questions from the media, preparing highly confidential press releases and publicising the company's involvement in charity and community projects.

Confidence, diplomacy, superb presentation and first class skills will put you in the media spotlight.

Specialists in young career secretaries. 071 493 7028

FINESSE

APPOINTMENTS

WEST END

barnard marcus

LOOKING FOR A CAREER, NOT A JOB?

Barnard Marcus, London's Premier Estate Agent, is looking for bright, enthusiastic candidates for the challenging position of Co-ordinator in the London area.

You will need to be self-motivated, possess first-class office skills (including typewriting and word processing), be a team player, have excellent presentation and a good telephone manner. Driving licence required. Salary negotiable according to age and experience.

Tel: (081) 747-1095



Equal Opportunities Employer

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£13,000

Exciting opportunity to help launch a brand new magazine. In a ground level working alongside the Publishing Director, setting up the office from scratch, designing and choosing the stationery, organising office systems, arranging and attending masses of promotional events and functions, liaising with the PR team. A genuine desire to work in magazine publishing, coupled with excellent PA skills (typing 50 wpm & shorthand if possible) plus boundless energy & enthusiasm.

071-497 8003

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Maime-Tucker

Recruitment Consultants

AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN...

£15,000 Package

He's made himself a real name in the World of International Art and he works for one of the well known houses in the West-End. He's the Editor of a magazine, a Director, a specialist who helps many connoisseurs. He needs someone who genuinely enjoys the support role, he needs a really good all round secretary (80 shorthand and fast typing). In return you will be surrounded by priceless works of Art, have the chance to work for someone who is truly charming and who would really appreciate you. If you are between 25 and 40 and just want a really nice job, look no further.

50 Pall Mall, St James's London SW1Y 5LB. Telephone 071-925 0548

MEDIA CAREERS

£9,500-13,500

As a major force in Media Recruitment Christopher Keats recruits for most of the

FILM, TV, ADVERTISING, PR, MAGAZINE & BOOK

companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, call one of our Specialist Consultants on:

071-379 4164 or 379 0344

until 5pm

ADventure

Adventure specialises in Secretarial/PA jobs in the media, so if you are looking for a job in that field, please do give us a call. We have a number of jobs in that field, please do give us a call. We have a number of jobs in that field, please do give us a call.

PA TO 2 PRODUCERS - this WI Commercial Production House DEF

DOES NOT want TV, Production or Ad exp, but they DO need a top

secretary, with top agency creative exp. £15,000.

PA/SEC TO TOP GUYS IN RADIO - you'll need good S/H and some S/H

for this lovely, but demanding, top slot in Radio. Ideally 28+, you'll work

for the PM & D. Charming, and be happy to earn £13,500.

SECRETARY to MAJOR RESEARCH AGCY - a real fast-moving job

including some typing, general office duties and LOTS of

research/sourcing/fact finding. £11,500.

Please ring Gillian or Felicity at the Agency.

ADVENTURE PERSONNEL LTD

12 South Molton Street, London W1P 1DF

Tel: 071 929 5747/071 499 8892

PA/SENIOR SEC £14,500

Lively individual required for Park Lane Property Co. Real initiative and self-motivation

is needed and skills of 80/60. Call Frank on

071 323 3388.

SEC COLLEGE LEAVERS/ 2ND JOBBERS

Advertising Assistant - W1, 40 wpm.

PR Junior Sec - good copy, rusty S/H, WC2.

4* Hotel S/H Sec - beautiful setting over river.

Banking Sec - audio, rusty S/H, great

prospects, EC4.

Property Sec - young & sociable, audio 45

wpm, good prospects. Call Jane 071

323 3388 or fax a C.V. to 071 323 4129.

VISA

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to £16,000 + bonus

First class opportunity for a well organised, meticulous

PA to work at senior level within this thriving,

prestigious, International Executive Search Consultancy.

Located in beautiful offices (just off Pall Mall) this

position calls for a mature and diplomatic approach, you

will be involved in regular liaison with clients and

candidates, organising a hectic diary, in-house lunches,

and utilising your excellent audio and typing skills to the

full. Ideally over 25 years. Excellent benefits!

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SUSAN DOUGHTY

RECRUITMENT

Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

ERCO

PA TO

PROMOTIONS

MANAGER

ERCO require a bright and enthusiastic PA for a busy and varied role within an architectural lighting company - assisting the Promotions Manager in a number of areas including - in-house exhibitions, seminars, proof reading, distribution of advertising material and management of WP files.

Please contact -

Louise Williams, ERCO Lighting Ltd,

38 Dover Street, London W1X 3RB.

Tel: 071 408 0320

OPPORTUNITIES IN DESIGN

£14,000 + bonus

Rapidly expanding Design & Advertising company (successful offices in the West End) are looking for a variety of staff including a PERSONNEL ASSISTANT. Previous experience in personnel or a real desire to work in this interesting area, you'll deal with recruitment of staff, training, research etc. Also a CREATIVE SECRETARY with a zany bunch of Designers & Artists, where the pace is fast, furious and fun. Both positions require good typing/word processing skills. Great benefits.

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SUSAN DOUGHTY

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MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

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GOING HOME?

BRUSSELS PA/Secretary for UK law firm with a busy international practice. Dutch useful.

PARIS: PA/Secretary with excellent and style for well-known American M & S Specialist.

(Local) ASSISTANT in BRUSSELS or PARIS is the essential ingredient for three new operations - your service, experience and contacts will be needed to help run them. Prospects wide plus superb French and English are taken for granted. Top salaries.

071 836 3794

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PROPERTY SECRETARY FOR TWO PARTNERS

Experienced shorthand/ WP secretary

(min. 100/70) with extensive, advanced

Wordperfect skills, motivated by two

Partners of a busy professional property

practice situated close to Liverpool Street.

Flexible, professional attitude, ability to work

in a highly pressurised position and on own

initiative essential. Good organisational skills

and sense of humour vital.

For details about our first class salary package

telephone or send c.v. to: Annabelle Lawrence,

AYH Partnership, 40 Clifton Street LONDON EC2A

4YA Fax 071-247 1501 Telephone 071-377 6886

Personal Assistant/Secretary

Required to work for the Managing

Partner of a small group of businesses.

A wide variety of work. Very close to

Hampstead Underground and near

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Applications in writing including full

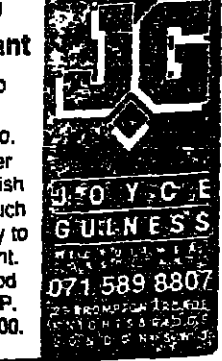
C.V. to Box No: A85 c/o Newspaper



CITY REWARDS
2nd Jobber
A very good number with a superb opportunity to move into a control with offices nearby in the City. 2nd years experience, numerous, excellent typing, some audio work, occasional WP (not press train). Strong professional prospects with a company who look after you and have brought out every possible company benefit and excellent salary.

PERSONALITY COUNTS
You are not so young for your career in a small but growing company with lots of opportunity, responsibility and a definite future. Surrounded by keen young Undersecretaries, not least the Chairman, who is to be congratulated and co-ordinated. Good shorthand/typing/word processing skills, as a WP user. Microfiche to be arranged and great opportunity. £16,000 + bonus, full yearly reviews, fringe benefits.

TV + RADIO
Junior Assistant
This TV and Radio division of communications Co. are offering a superbly positive 19-21ish a fascinating job which could lead eventually to Production Assistant. Well presented good typist 50wpm km WP. Super perks £210,000.



A GOOD CO-ORDINATOR
£16,000
An opportunity (due to internal promotion) has arisen for an experienced secretary with initiative and sound administrative skills to join this well-known management consultancy. Provide full backup to a charming partner and organise the division's social activities and the annual conference. 50/80 wpm skills needed.
Please contact Sarah or Terri on 071 439 2777

ALEXIS PERSONNEL

PA to a Director
£16,000
Join this successful direct marketing company as PA to their Client Services Director. Deal directly with clients, help organise new business ventures and supervise secretarial staff. Excellent benefits incl. Xmas bonus, profit share and share options. Outgoing personality needed. WP experience.
Please contact Sarah or Terri on 071 439 2777

ALEXIS PERSONNEL

SECRETARY/PA to Retail Director

Staines £ Excellent

Allied Bakeries is part of a highly profitable blue chip British Plc with brand leaders such as Kingsmill, Sunblest, Mighty White, Allinson and Vitbe.

Working as Secretary/PA to the Retail Director of this dynamic organisation requires a very special person. In addition to shorthand, typing, administration and communication skills, we are looking for someone who is able to display initiative while working under pressure as well as being calm, unflappable and reliable.

The ideal candidate will already be working for a Director or very senior Manager of a large organisation and will have a good academic background.

To apply, please send your full c.v.

to:-

Mr. Colin Young, Management

Development and Training Executive,

Allied Bakeries Limited, Sunblest House,

Fairfield Avenue, Staines TW18 4BA.

Applications must arrive no later

than 13.6.90.

College Leaver to £11,000 - Retail

International retailers need a confident and enthusiastic secretary to assist their household buyer. You'll learn lots liaising with clients and suppliers on the telephone and in person, arranging his diary and handling his correspondence. If you have good shorthand and typing skills and want to work for a company that really values their staff, please call Sarah Stewart on 071-434 4512.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

WORD PROCESSING ** TRAINER **

We are currently looking for a Word Processing Trainer with NBI experience to train IN HOUSE staff of large professional practice in basic and advanced WPP skills. The position involves a vast amount of supervising, admin, telephone liaison and IT support. It is extremely important you have a professional approach and are conversant with staff and clients at all levels. A good academic background, smart appearance, articulate manner and outgoing personality is a must.

Tel. Mrs Elcock on 071-580 5522

Fax C.V. to 071-323 3019

Post C.V. to Dorcas Jones Associates (rec

con) 77/79 Wells St. London, W1P 3RE

50 Pall Mall, St James's London SW1Y 5LB. Telephone 071-925 0548

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"Home from Home"

£11,000 + Package

This is a real confidence building job, working from elegant Agency offices, as part of this young social team - you cannot fail to gain some wonderful experience. You will be constantly

handed important clients in person and on the phone... how to put things into order of priority and all the time

you can be working on your typing! If you have about 25 typing

and are under 22 why not become a part of this family?

50 Pall Mall, St James's London SW1Y 5LB. Telephone 071-925 0548

PA/SECRETARY

£13,000

Smart PA/secretary required to work for General

Manager, at a prestigious jewellers in

New Bond Street.

Candidate must be bright, well spoken and

presented, and able to work under pressure.

Knowledge of shorthand, wordprocessing, and

Italian useful - but not essential. Two years minimum

experience essential.

For further details contact Jacqueline Domenech.

071-872 9969

(No agencies)

The Ramblers' Association

PUBLICITY ASSISTANT/PA

£11,000

The Publicity Development department needs an enthusiastic person

with accurate typing and who will work for the Assistant Director.

You will be involved in many aspects of publicity and fundraising

and will have close relationships with clients and candidates.

Organise your own work as well as be an interest in the countryside.

Please phone or write to Catherine Gunningham, Assistant Director,

The Ramblers' Association, 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8

2X, 071-522 0879 for further details and an application form.

Closing date for applications: 8 June 1990.

KING & TOBEN

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

£15,000 + Early Review & Free Lunch

This charming humorous Executive is new to the company

and needs an intelligent ("A" level or Graduate)

PA/Secretary to work with him as part of a team as he

develops his relationships with clients and candidates.

You'll need to be fun, have a high energy level and be able

to handle a multi-task role. Skills required: good audio,

some shorthand and a lively telephone manner. Age 21 - 30.

Please ask to speak to Jo Toben.

KING & TOBEN Tel: 071-629 9648

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS, Finsbury House, 166 Finsbury,

London W1V 5DE

KING & TOBEN

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Excellent Legal Secretarial

Permanent Positions

£15,000+

For more information call

Allison on 071 409 0831

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A rewarding role where you will assist the Director General of a leading charity. You will be dealing sympathetically with sensitive issues as you arrange and attend meetings and organise travel. 50 wpm audio. Phone 071 499 8070.

CAROLINE KING appointments

GRADUATE PERSONNEL To £15000

You will be responsible for the graduate intake of a top computer company. Based in the personnel department, you will liaise with universities, vet applications and be involved in interviews. Typing essential. Phone 071 499 8070.

CAROLINE KING appointments

HEAVEN SCENT. To £15000

Join the offices of two friendly directors in an internationally known perfume and cosmetics company. You will take charge of correspondence and be responsible for ad hoc project work. 100/70 audio. Telephone 071 499 8070.

CAROLINE KING appointments

071-584 3222 TM 071-584 3222

£18,000

A well established consultancy full of international executives, is looking for a top PA/Office Manager to report to a Senior Director. As well as dealing with all office management duties you will be recruiting support staff, handling administration and generally being the lynch pin in the company. 30% secretarial and some PA work. Excellent presentation, a good secretarial background with administrative experience, and computer literacy essential. Shortlist preferred. Age 23-28. Speeds 80/60wpm

FILM COMPANY £12,000

A film company with beautiful offices in the West End is looking for a switched on production assistant with secretarial skills. You must be quick, on the ball and good at organising. The job involves co-ordinating and helping at casting sessions and photographic shoots, making travel arrangements and organising the production. 35% typing. Typing 45wpm

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm. LONDON BRUSSELS

Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

SALES & MARKETING OTE £20,000 ++

Looking for a challenging change of direction? Come and join our busy Marketing Department here at Sarah Hodge. If you've got previous sales experience, drive and self motivation to excel in this competitive field, we'll give you all the training you need to sell and market our professional service. Call us on 071 434 0030 for an informal chat.

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Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

PUBLISHING £16,000

As PA to the MD of this specialised publishing house (Camden Town) enjoy the prestige of a high powered position and develop that role. European language(s) an asset, plus a background in the medical world. An opportunity not to be missed, phone now for details on 071 434 0030.

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Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

FINANCE £18,000

As financial administrator for well established firm of business development consultants, proven accounts exp well stand you in good stead in preparation for management meetings. Liaison with banks and general office bookkeeping. Knowledge of Lotus and/or SAGE preferred. Possible profit share. Phone now on 071 434 0030.

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Sarah Hodge Recruitment & Consultants

SOCIALLY AWARE £14,750

MD of top advertising agency is looking for a true PA to "enhance his working life" he says. Minimal sec duties, plenty organising and client contact. Would suit a well educated secretary aware, chic professional. Surrounded by bright fun people who love their work. Great bene call 071 434 0030.

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CHAIRMAN'S PA £18,000
A wonderful opportunity exists in the work for the Chairman of an international company. This is a true supportive PA role involving little typing. Knowledge of French useful as you will accompany him on overseas trips. Good command of English and accuracy essential. Based in Grosvenor Square, Call Pam Perkins.

EXECUTIVE PA £15,000 + Bens
The Chairman and Vice President of two multi-national companies require an experienced assistant. As well as organising their intricate business schedules, you will also be responsible for their very personal arrangements, therefore the ability to prioritise and attention to detail are vital qualities. Shortlist essential. Call Glynda Ranger.

MATURE SEC £15,000
If you are highly competent, have a strong admin background and would enjoy negotiating with Banks and Dealers, the Corporate Head Office of the very large international company needs you. Shortlist, VFP and accuracy skills are essential to secure this very prestigious position. Call Pam Perkins.

70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St. end) 071-491 0363 Our Fax No for CVs is 071-409 2555

OVERSEAS SALES ADMINISTRATION MANAGER for Fine Art Publisher & Distributor

We are looking for a highly organised administrator with experience of exports and computerised sales systems to help run our Overseas Trade Department.

Competitive salary. Please reply in writing to: Susan Absolon CCA Galleries 8 Dover Street London W1X 3PJ

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TRAIN FROM P.A. TO PRESS OFFICER. TOP BENEFITS INC. 5 WEEKS HOLS.

If you hold a degree, speak French fluently and would like to Market the fragrances of France, this Cosmetic House offers a secretary the chance to take prominence within press relations. You should have good copy writing skills and excellent secretarial credentials. £12,000 plus 5 weeks holiday. Call Lynn Lait on 071-486 6951. ZARAK Rec Cons.

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P.A./Secretary to Partner in our Construction and Engineering Litigation Department

Involved in large Construction and Engineering matters, contentious and non-contentious, at Partner level. Also assisting in the recruitment of our Articled Clerks.

You should have good litigation experience, preferably in the Construction field, but this is not essential. Ability to organise is essential as you will be required to arrange meetings with clients and Counsel as well as organising interviews on the recruitment side. You will need to be very well presented and personable. Competitive salary, good conditions.



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£11,000 + JULY REVIEW + HOLS PERKS + FREE LUNCHEES + MEDICAL
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50 Pall Mall, St James's London SW1Y 5LB. Telephone 071-925 0548

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BEAUTIFUL OFFICES - CITY
Enjoy a thriving, young and hardworking environment in which your input will positively impact on the growing success of this international company. WP skills are required (45 w.p.m.) but a variety of duties ensures that you will not be tied to the screen! Excellent presentation and telephone manner is essential.

Please call Christine Hagill on 071-937-6519 or fax your details to 071-938-3149.

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International Distillers & Vintners Ltd., world leaders in the marketing of high quality wines and spirits, are seeking a top notch, professional executive secretary for one of their Main Board Directors. Excellent secretarial skills (s/h & audio), immaculate presentation and previous board level experience in blue chip company are all essential qualities for this unique position. Excellent benefits package.

Call our Consultant HAZEL BRANDON 071-242 6321 PERSONNEL RESOURCES

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Circa £14,500 + 5 Weeks Hols + LV's + BUPA++
Have you got a flair for dealing with the Press? Can you keep up with this man...can you anticipate his every move? It's hard work but you will personally see the results...attend the Press Conference you helped to organise on behalf of one of your world famous clients...Launch at the Savoy...skillfully produce that vital Press Release. When the pressure is on you are there, meticulously attending to every detail but when times are calmer he's flexible. There are 30 young people in this incredible PR organisation, you only work for one but your mentality is such that you always help out. If you are under 28, have 80/50 and want to join a company that is going places, call us up before this story breaks!

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OPERA LOVER PA/SECRETARY £13,000 NEG.

If you have an interest in Opera and classical music and enjoy being a member of a friendly team, then we may be able to introduce you to an ideal role.
Good secretarial skills are required (55/7 and W.P.) as well as a sound educational background, and at least two years' experience. A working knowledge of French would be useful. Reporting to a charming Senior Executive who frequently travels abroad, you will need the confidence and ability to work effectively on your own initiative.

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The GROSVENOR Bureau

PA to Secretary General

Bright, efficient secretary required to assist Secretary General in small friendly office in House of Commons. Good shorthand, typing and knowledge of word processing required. Cross training provided. Generous holidays - summer holiday arrangements honoured. Starting salary £14,000. Start by 2nd July 1990.

Telephone Joanna on 071-219-5373 or apply in writing to CPA (UK Branch), Westminster Hall, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA.

venture plus

MATURE SEC 45+ & Excellent

She level exp top with fast & acc Audio/VP skills are a must for this interesting & varied post based in Holborn.

Please call Angela or Penny on 071 493 3222/071 498 1326 (Rae Cone)

SECRETARY £14,000+ p.a.

Job demands excellent secretarial skills. WP, Shorthand Typing and efficiency in office management. The right candidate will be able to work unobtrusively, make decisions, and accept responsibility.

Please send C.V. to: Fax No: 071-408 0827 or reply to The Personnel Director, Dugan Recruitment Group, 260 North Row, London W1R 1DH

SENIOR SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR SALARY c £13,000 Based Rickmansworth

PCL Computer Services Group Limited is a young, friendly and dynamic company employing about 150 staff providing computing solutions to the UK Commercial market.

The company requires a Senior Secretary to primarily assist the Managing Director. The position is both interesting and challenging. The successful applicant will have a high degree of organisational skills and the ability to work flexible hours under pressure. Secretarial skills including word-processing and shorthand are essential; as is previous senior level experience.

Please apply with CV to: Diane Hilton PCL Computer Services Group Limited Watford House 47 High Street Rickmansworth Herts WD3 1ES Telephone 0923 771111



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Rare opportunity to combine Italian & Spanish (French useful) with your excellent PA skills within this highly regarded PR consultancy based in Covent Garden. As PA to Account Director of a brand new account - an exclusive worldwide hotel chain, you will get involved in all aspects of PR carrying out extensive research, liaising with journalists, translating press items into appropriate language(s), monitoring European press coverage etc. The ideal person will have excellent organisational ability, impeccable grooming and sound secretarial skills.

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PA/ SECRETARY - 50% ADMIN Free Travel + Mort + Bonus + £16,000

An experienced & energetic 35 - 38 year old, with excellent shorthand, typing & WP skills is sought by dynamic boss at International Merchandise Bank in W1. Personal & professional presentation should be impeccable to join this prestigious organisation.

Call Louise on 071-287 2044.

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KING'S COLLEGE LONDON University of London

ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRINCIPAL

Applications are invited for the post of Administrative/Personal Assistant to the new Principal of King's College, Dr JDE Beynon. King's is one of the largest Colleges within the University and has a national and international reputation for its academic excellence. The Principal is academic and administrative head of the institution and his office is, in many ways, the focal point of the College. The person appointed will be responsible for a wide range of activities which include providing secretarial and administrative support to the Principal's Office. The ideal candidate will be a graduate or equivalent, or appropriately experienced, who is able to take initiative, has an ability to work on one's own, and also has a personality conducive to establishing good working relationships with people both within and outside the College. First class secretarial skills are assumed. Dr Beynon will formally take up office on 1st September 1990, but it would be advantageous if his Administrative/Personal Assistant could take up post as early as July. Salary will be on scale ALG1 £9,816 - £12,381 p.a. or ALG2 £12,879 - £16,665 p.a. plus £1,767 p.a. London Allowance. Further particulars are available from the Personnel Assistant, King's College London, Strand, London WC2R 2LS. Tel 071 873 2285. To whom applications (with CV and the names and addresses of two referees) should be sent by 12th June 1990.

PUBLIC RELATIONS PA/SECRETARY TO ACCOUNT MANAGER

We are a successful PR consultancy seeking a confident, efficient, secretary with a strong personality and sense of humour. Total involvement is required together with the ability to handle a variety of tasks under pressure and the willingness to be trained in all aspects of PR. No shorthand but fast accurate typing and WP skills are essential together with an excellent telephone manner and appearance to liaise with TV, radio and press. Age 21.

Salary: £13,000 + 2 bonuses, BUPA, STL

Please reply in writing, including daytime telephone number to:

Giselle Carbone, Cameron Chant & Partners, 126/128 Cromwell Road, London SW7 4ET

Closing date for replies - 8 June 1990

A PASSION FOR YACHTING to £13,000

This exclusive Yachting company is seeking a confident, stylish PA with personality & initiative. The Director travels extensively so you will hold the fort & generally run the office in his absence. You too will have an opportunity to travel & may swap with someone from their Côte d'Azur office for a few weeks - just to learn the ropes! If you enjoy responsibility, like organising & have excellent secretarial skills combined with a genuine interest in yachting please call Daniela Sutton.

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Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA

Tel: 071-493 8824 Fax: 071-493 7181

MAJOR LONDON EVENT

An exciting opportunity exists to join the prestigious Arts Funding Campaign at the RSC. 2 bright, keen, team-spirited PAs/Secs are needed to assist Production Director and PR/Events organiser. Excellent typing, proven administrative ability and a genuine interest in the Arts will ensure full involvement and success. £12,000 p.a. plus benefits. Age 23+ - £15,000.

Contact Sue Gibbs or Joanna Rowan

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

EDITOR'S PA c.£15,000

Varied and demanding PA role working for the Editor of a well known glossy women's magazine. A responsible position running the Editorial office, organising the placement of students and freelance staff, booking restaurants and arranging/attending functions, own correspondence, supervising office junior etc. Shorthand of 80 wpm essential, plus plenty of initiative and confidence, ideally aged 25-40.

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TV PRODUCTION c. £12,000

ORGANISING THE CREWS RESEARCHING LOCATIONS - READING SCRIPTS would be part of your busy day as Production Secretary working on an award winning travel series. If you are enthusiastic, energetic and have skills of 100/50 & thrive on the buzz of a fast paced, rapidly changing environment this is the opportunity you have been waiting for.

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DYNAMIC YOUNG SEC to £15,000 + Bonus

A good team member with a sense of humour and the desire to succeed, we find untapped opportunities with this professional Co with a strong emphasis on working hard and playing hard. The successful MD requires a Secretary to provide full support including SH, administration, client liaison and organising his day. This prestigious but very rewarding position also offers 2 bonuses p.a. profit share and BUPA. Call Sally 071 439 2368. Ref: M 1060.

Mistprestige RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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071-481 4481

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CHARTLEIGH
Appointments

BIG CITY BANK

£13,000 Package

A fascinating opening for someone with an understanding of the banking sector. Work alongside the Personnel Office in a fast moving typically banking environment. With computer literacy (Wordperfect 5) and a head for organisation, you'll find this a thoroughly enjoyable position. A strong emphasis lies on the ability to communicate in a friendly and helpful manner. Please for more details. Ref: SB/C6.

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MONTE CARLO OR BUST!

£14,000++

Trips to Monte Carlo are repeatedly upon this MD's agenda and he needs his indispensable PA by his side. To be in total control of all his movements you must have excellent organisational abilities. There will be lots of client contact as you'll need to be confident and able to communicate at all levels. An outstanding offer for the above average PA. Ref: FY/B707.

HOLBORN 071-430-2291

SUN, SEA AND...

circa £13,000

Success within this international publishing company? They are looking for a senior secretary with solid experience. They'll reward you with an excellent package and prospects, great working atmosphere. There will be lots of opportunity to mould this position to your liking. appointments, conferences, administration - the variety is fantastic. Ref: SA/C2.

OXFORD CIRCUS 071-255-3140

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£13,000

Working as Secretary within a TV Department of this TV company you will become fully integrated in a wonderful array of secretarial and administrative functions. Use your excellent skills to become fully appreciated and organised. Lunches, appointments, diaries and promotions. Don't miss this opportunity call now! Ref: MJ/C226.

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TRAVELLING PA

£5,000

Have you got ambition, drive, initiative and excellent secretarial skills? Don't waste time join this company as PA to the Operations Director. When you are not joining him on his travels nationally then take over at the HQ. If you are energetic, competent, and an organisational wizard with exceptional communication abilities then call now. Ref: GB/C183.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 071-225-1777

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Do you want to use your (or course excellent) secretarial skills more creatively? Why not join our Editorial Production, Foreign Rights, Publishing, Sales & Marketing, while working for a top Book Publishers or Magazine Group. £9,000-£12,000.

OVER 35? INTERESTED IN TRAINING?

ENJOY £13,500

Top People Training Organisation need mature people with superb secretarial skills. Distinguished Training Officers, lots of interesting people!

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£11,500

Very interesting job for PA/Sec at well known Film Co. Interest in computers useful, great energy for getting things done!

COVENT GARDEN BUREAU

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In the four years since it opened, Office Angels has come to the forefront of recruitment on a national level. One of the oldest of 33 branches, Holborn is archetypal of the Angels' philosophy: providing an 'old-fashioned service' in a modern industry. Their highly talented staff show commitment, integrity and professionalism - the secret of their success.

As they continue to thrive, the need has arisen for one more consultant - someone with pioneering spirit, resourcefulness and solid experience in a sales environment. As part of a lively team, you'll work and play hard, enjoying true job satisfaction and reaping plentiful rewards for your efforts.

Write to, or call, in complete confidence: MAUREEN REEVES, 115 High Holborn, WC1. 071-430 2531.



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EARN £17,000 + HOLIDAY PAY

Young, professional shorthand secretaries join my excellent temp team and enjoy a variety of assignments within Cosmetics, Fashion, Property etc. Your Wang, Multimate, Wordperfect experience guarantees regular & interesting bookings.

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PERSONNEL IN DESIGN. £18-25k

The following requirements are essential to take up this career position with one of the most prestigious design companies in London. You will be 25/35 (no older) with top personal and admin experience & a background in design or advertising and a formal personnel qualification IPM or equivalent.

Please contact: Wanda Wachsner Novak
ZARAK Rec Cons
071 486 6951

Senior PA
in PR

£15,000

The second in command of this well-established international PR company is looking for a true PA who can trust and delegate to.

You will be totally involved in on-going project work, the day-to-day and long-term planning of the company, liaising with senior clients, all your own correspondence, screening calls and arranging Board meetings.

You must be young and enthusiastic towards the PA and is looking for someone who enjoys using their own initiative and is an excellent communicator.

If you enjoy working hard in a high-paced atmosphere, have excellent secretarial skills to 100/100 and previous PR or creative experience this is a great opportunity for you.

Age 25-29
Medial Rec Cons
071-491 3848

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£18,000 pkg

Are you in your mid-20s with 2 years financial experience? If so, major City stockbroker seeks bright cheerful sec with good conversational Spanish (English mother tongue), fast typing, WP skills to work on lively Latin American desk. You'll help prepare presentations and liaise extensively with overseas clients.

Please call Nicola
Whelan on 071-566 3355.

Crone Corkill

Multilingual

EXEC PA

£16,000 + BENS

Our client a prestigious City Broker is looking for a senior PA to act as a liaison between the company and its clients. The ideal candidate will be a confident, energetic, and well-organized individual with excellent communication skills and a strong background in the financial sector.

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Keystone Recruitment

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TOP CLASS BI-LINGUAL
PA/SECRETARY
for
DIRECTOR EUROPE/
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVEFirst class salary
(Based in Fulham)

Sericol International is a world leader in screen printing inks, with fast growing companies in France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and the USA.

The entrepreneurial Director Europe requires a high calibre assistant to organise his office and provide secretarial services.

In addition to proficient shorthand/W.P. skills, the successful candidate will have a knowledge of German, French or Spanish to help in both written and spoken communication with overseas companies and customers.

Based at our Parsons Green Lane head office in Fulham, you will deal with people at all levels requiring good communication skills and a lively, outgoing personality.

In return we offer excellent working conditions with the usual range of first class benefits appropriate to an international company.

Please telephone for an application form to:
Jane Clayton, Sericol Limited, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2PA.
Telephone: (0843) 67071.



EUROPEAN LANGUAGE? INTERNATIONAL STATUS.

The Programme Director of an International Consortium organising West African Agricultural Development needs a responsible secretary with French mother-tongue and plenty of initiative. As well as good all-round secretarial skills including SH (French or English), flexibility, interpersonal skills and confidentiality are essential for this very interesting position. Salary £12,000 + excellent benefits including insurance policies and occasional travel abroad!

International Secretaries
174 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PS
071-491 7100
(Fax: 01-491 2573)
Recruitment Consultants

MAINLY ADMIN

A young, friendly and energetic person is required to assist the Managing Director in the day-to-day running of the company. The ideal candidate will have excellent administrative skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

If you are interested and want to find out more, please call on 071 223 6522 between 9.30 am and 5 pm.
Salary £10-14k depending on experience.
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For hectic Estate Agents in Knightsbridge. Plenty of client contact with high calibre customers, good typing skills, extremely varied and interesting job.

SALARY NEGOTIABLE.
RING 071-581 5136.

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RECEPTION IN THE WEST END R.S.V.P.

Good presentation is essential for a reception post in this prestigious West End property development company. So is a flexible attitude, a friendly disposition, an office reception background, plus a willingness to get involved in company work and client contact. Salary £13k - age 20's. R.S.V.P!

Bernadette of Bond Street

55 New Bond Street, London W1Y 0ND

071-629 1204

(Fax: 01-629 9754)

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IMMEDIATE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENTS

DESK-TOP PUBLISHING

Major international company - marketing dept. - 90/50 wpm - full training - Wang/ Dig Dec - mid-20s

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Merchant bank - assisting personnel officer - 50% admin 50% secretarial - 90/50 wpm - no personnel exp. needed - IBM DWA/Wordperfect - early 20s.

PR SECRETARY

Assisting young creative director - major Mayfair HO - organising conferences/press releases - 50% secretarial - 90/50 wpm - AES/Wang - early 20s.

Bookings to commence Monday 4/6/90 - TV Co. Marketing Dept. Dealer's Assistant. Mergers Acquisitions.

Please call us now on 071-872 8886.

MacBlain NASH Temporary Secretaries

LEGAL LA CREME

MAJOR Typist required for the West End. Stable position with a starting salary of £10,000 with the after 6 months. Call Bernadette Bond Street on 071-629 1204.

EUROPEAN ?

WINE BROKERS, London PA with fluent French, English shorthand and good WP skills is required for Managing Director. Marketing experience as well as knowledge of Spanish and/or German a definite plus. c. £14,500

FILM DISTRIBUTORS, Paris French mother-tongue Assistant with fluent Italian and some English. A really exciting opportunity for a mature (28 plus) Secretary (WP skills essential) seeking weighty responsibility. 180-180,000 p/a

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, Brussels c£15,000 TAX FREE Executive Secretary/PA for Committee Director. Fluent French, other languages useful. Complete keyboard skills, shorthand useful. Probably graduate with interest in current affairs. Two-year international travel.

COMPUTERS/BANKING, Switzerland International organisation urgently needs fluent French and German speaker for continuous liaison with suppliers and professional secretarial support for busy Director. TAX FREE salary and relocation allowance, etc.

SHEILA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL COUNSELLOR
The Power House, Alpha Place, London SW9 5EZ
Tel: 071 351 6551 Fax: 071 376 8540
11 rue de la Boquerie, 75006 Paris, France
Tel: (1) 47 42 87 52 Fax: (1) 42 86 92 96

ITALIAN/FRENCH PA with excellent Secretarial/PA skills for the international Co based in the West End. Applying the Managing Director's secretary to show own initiative. Age 25-45. Salary to take into account. 20-25 years experience.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ASSISTANT, Surrey £14,000 - £16,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the Surrey area. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

GERMAN/FRENCH WUSSELS £14,000 - £16,000. You have German & French (fluent) and are looking for a challenging position in the Managing Director's office. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will have a high level of contact with the Director.

SPANISH SECRETARY IN FISHERY £14,000 - £16,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the fishing industry. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

ITALIAN IN MEDIA £11,000 - £13,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the media industry. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

LONG-TERM TEMPORARY BOOKING, French. French speaking PA/Sec with excellent secretarial skills and a strong background in the publishing industry. Salary to take into account. 20-25 years experience.

EMPLOYERS PLEASE NOTE: We charge a fee for our services. This fee is included in the salary of the candidate. If you need help, please call us on 071-287 6060.

Bayce Bilingual 071-287 6060

The Language Specialists

MULTILINGUAL MANNA The top of top property dealers of this city have urgently sought a bilingual PA to assist them in their day-to-day running of the company. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

SPANISH TRANSLATOR with good French for city Co. on West end. Salary to take into account. 20-25 years experience.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ASSISTANT, Surrey £14,000 - £16,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the Surrey area. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

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SPANISH SECRETARY IN FISHERY £14,000 - £16,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the fishing industry. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

ITALIAN IN MEDIA £11,000 - £13,000. Excellent opportunity to join a leading international company in the media industry. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

LONG-TERM TEMPORARY BOOKING, French. French speaking PA/Sec with excellent secretarial skills and a strong background in the publishing industry. Salary to take into account. 20-25 years experience.

EMPLOYERS PLEASE NOTE: We charge a fee for our services. This fee is included in the salary of the candidate. If you need help, please call us on 071-287 6060.

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SPANISH £17,000 + PERKS. The international business world is currently looking for a high level PA to assist them in their day-to-day running of the company. The ideal candidate will have excellent secretarial skills and be able to handle a high volume of correspondence and paperwork.

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CONTACT JONATHAN BARKER
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071-379 0344
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

EUROPEAN ?

WINE BROKERS, London PA with fluent French, English shorthand and good WP skills is required for Managing Director. Marketing experience as well as knowledge of Spanish and/or German a definite plus. c. £14,500

FILM DISTRIBUTORS, Paris French mother-tongue Assistant with fluent Italian and some English. A really exciting opportunity for a mature (28 plus) Secretary (WP skills essential) seeking weighty responsibility. 180-180,000 p/a

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

by Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Strategy defies its limits

Providing financial services within the property market is becoming increasingly important. This is highlighted by Jonathan Edwards, former managing director of international property advisers Baker Harris Saunders, establishing his own company to provide a comprehensive range of services.

Jonathan Edwards Ltd has been built on the concept of a "property merchant bank" to provide a full range of advisory and agency services to UK and overseas clients. The firm will eventually include surveyors, bankers, accountants and lawyers.

Mr Edwards says: "Property has become an integral part of the corporate strategy of modern business and the property market is becoming more complex and international. Traditional boundaries are being eroded with banks, insurance companies, pension funds, property companies, accountants and surveyors all offering property advisory services."

He says the new company will

Property investment advice has taken on new importance as traditional barriers are eroded

provide "pro-active and innovative" advice based on a thorough understanding of the market and the varied needs of clients. "This type of service will be required more than ever as both corporate and property clients, as well as occupiers, face the political and economic uncertainties of the next few years."

Investment advice is vital to financial services. A conference organized by the consultants Healey & Baker recently raised fears that the short-term expectations of the property sector might undermine the relative security which the property industry has enjoyed in the past 15 years.

Addressing the conference, Tim Skitchley, Healey & Baker's investment partner, said the improved liquidity that banks and overseas sources had brought to

the sector was at the expense of increased volatility. "Long-term equity investors in property will have increasing influence and, by definition, be more critical when creating the investment strategy for the 1990s."

The key issue facing the property industry was the extent to which debt-financed investments could be replaced by equity investors. The entrepreneurial attitude developed by property fund managers during the 1980s would, however, continue to dominate investment attitudes. "The days of passive management are over."

Mr Skitchley predicted that the investment portfolios of the 1990s would include a significant proportion of retail, despite its unattractiveness to funds in the short term. Office investment in London would soon feel the

effects of over-supply, but London's long-term investment prospects were attractive. He believed the best office investment could be a multi-tenanted building giving frequent opportunities to refurbish or redevelop so as to create added value.

He said the burgeoning leisure industry would be the "largest industry in the developed world" by 2000.

For funding in the 1990s, Mr Skitchley looked to two new methods: unitization and securitization. Unitization enables the multi-ownership of a single property, which will provide "much needed liquidity" to the property market.

The property market has recently seen the rise of the concept of mortgage-backed securities, whereby a building society or mortgage lender can raise funds using a pool of mortgages as collateral. Mortgage-backed securities allow the issuer to repackaging his mortgage assets for sale in the capital markets.



San Alliance Group Properties has sold its landmark building in Birmingham, 78-90 Colmore Row, to Haslemere Estates for £4.7 million. Situated in the centre of Birmingham's business district, the 1920s building provides about 25,000 sq ft of prime office space. The transaction confirms the continuing confidence in the office market in Birmingham city centre. The building is occupied by Chesterton, which agreed a rent with San Alliance last September of £322,000 per year. This is based on a 25-year lease with five-year rent reviews.

Tokyo leads world in office costs

TOKYO leads London as the most expensive place in the world for office space, despite increasing interest rates and a 25 per cent decline in the Nikkei share index, according to an office market survey of 76 cities by Colliers Stewart Newiss, a member of Colliers International Property Consultants.

An analysis of the biannual survey, based on rent and operating expenses, shows that the highest occupancy costs are £118 per sq ft in Tokyo, followed by London with £94 for the City and £91 for the West End, well above Hong Kong at £63 per sq ft and Sydney (£37). In the US, New York Midtown at £28 per sq ft is slightly less expensive than Washington DC at £30 per sq ft.

Office occupancy costs in London are nearly three times as expensive as the cost in cities such as Paris (£33), Milan (£32), Madrid (£32) and Frankfurt (£31). Other British cities - Edinburgh (£28), Birmingham (£25), Glasgow (£23), Leeds (£22) and Manchester (£21) - are significantly higher than European competitors such as Brussels (£16), Amsterdam (£12) and Antwerp (£10).

Keith Martindale, chief executive of Colliers Stewart Newiss, says opportunities for both investors and occupiers have increased during the past six months in the UK. "Selective purchases by investors who know their market will yield good returns now that prices have fallen to more realistic levels."

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Mother's removal of child to UK not wrongful

All defendants to be heard on reporting restrictions

C v S
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Sir Roger Ormrod
[Judgment May 17]

The removal of a child by his mother from Western Australia, where the father had no custodial rights unless conferred by a court order, was not "wrongful" within the meaning of article 3 of the Convention on Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, set out in Schedule 1 to the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985, where the removal took place in the absence of any such order.

Further, where the mother retained the child after the father obtained such an order, her retention was not wrongful within the meaning of article 3 since the child was no longer habitually resident within Western Australia when the order was made.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the father from Mr Justice Douglas Brown who on April 30 dismissed the father's application made on April 19 for the return of the child who had been removed from Western Australia on March 21 and brought to England by his mother.

The child had been retained here by the mother notwithstanding that on April 12 Mr Justice Anderson in the Family Court of Western Australia had granted the father sole custodial rights in the child thereby implicitly requiring his return to that jurisdiction.

Article 3 of the Convention provides: "The removal or the retention of a child is to be considered wrongful where—(a) it is in breach of rights of custody attributed to a person, either jointly or alone, under the law of the state in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention; and (b) at the time of removal or retention, the person whose rights are claimed to have been infringed, was actually exercising, either jointly or alone, or would have been so exercised but for the removal or retention."

The rights of custody mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) above might arise in particular by operation of law or by reason of a judicial or administrative decision, or by reason of an agreement having legal effect under the law of that state.

Mr Ian Karsten, QC and Lord Meston for the father; Mr Andrew Kirkwood, QC and Miss Susan Cooper for the mother.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the parents who were unmarried had each emigrated to Australia from the United Kingdom of which they were both citizens. Their relationship had had its separations and reconciliations.

Their child was born in 1987 and had dual nationality. In 1990 the mother determined to return permanently to England with the child, taking considerable care that the father should not be aware of her intentions. On March 21 she and the child flew to the United Kingdom.

It was said that such removal was wrongful within the meaning of article 3.

After the father had obtained the order of April 12 the child was allowed to remain in his wrongful retention within the meaning of the article.

The English courts attached the greatest importance to giving speedy effect to applications under the Convention. Thus the present case had been expedited and was being considered less than four weeks after the child's return to Australia was requested.

The mischief at which the Convention and the 1985 Act were directed was the wrongful removal of a child from or its wrongful retention outside, the territorial jurisdiction of the courts of a Convention country.

Where that occurred it was the duty of the courts of any other Convention country where the child might be to order its return. That duty was almost absolute.

However "wrongful" was the

operative word and that depended in part on the wording of the Convention as incorporated in the Act and in part, on the law of Western Australia.

His Lordship set out articles 3, 4, 5, 14 and 15 of the Convention. In his judgment, articles 14 and 15 were intended to assist a court which was asked to order the return of a child to ascertain the law of the other contracting state in so far as it was relevant to whether the removal or retention was wrongful within article 3.

It could not have been the intention that the courts of the other contracting state should be asked to determine the issue of the applicability of article 3 in so far as it turned on the meaning of the Convention itself, because that would have meant which the courts of both countries were equally able to determine.

In the present case, the court had seen reasons for the judgment given by Mr Justice Anderson when making his *ex parte* order on the father's application for custody and guardianship.

They covered not only the law of Western Australia in relation to custody, which his Lordship accepted unreservedly and also the judge's view on the applicability of the Convention, which his Lordship viewed in a different category, since in respect of that the English court was under an obligation to form its own opinion.

His Lordship referred to the judgment and to section 35 of the Family Court Act 1975 of Western Australia which provided that the right of custody of a child of unmarried parents vested in the mother unless the court ordered otherwise.

So far as custody was concerned the judge was, it seemed, finding that the father and mother had exercised joint custody over the child until the mother's removal, but that only the mother had any right of custody until the order of April 12 vesting that right in the father.

That had occurred after the

child had arrived in England.

Since articles 3, 4 and 5 were solely concerned with rights of custody, and the father had no such right, his Lordship did not consider that the child's removal from Australia could constitute a wrongful removal within the meaning of the Convention.

Turning to the alleged wrongful retention after the order had been made and the mother served with notice of it, his Lordship agreed with the reasoning of Mr Justice Douglas Brown that retention in article 3 meant retention after a period of lawful possession, for example after a temporary visit in the exercise of rights of access. That, in his Lordship's view, was the situation to which the provision was primarily addressed.

The words used by the Convention had a wider meaning, the court should give effect to it. Clearly the father obtained rights of custody and access when Mr Justice Anderson made his order on April 12 and equally clearly those rights had been exercised by the mother keeping the child in England.

There was, it was true, no order for the child's return, but it must have been apparent to the mother that if she did not return with the child she would at least be failing to give the father his access rights under the order.

However retention was only wrongful in the terms of the Convention if it was "in breach of rights of custody under the law of the state in which the child was habitually resident immediately before the removal or retention".

The court therefore had to decide where the child was habitually resident on April 12. It was a very interesting question whether the child and his mother could establish habitual residence on arrival here in circumstances where they had every intention of staying indefinitely and settling. However, was not the point.

The question was did the child's habitual residence in

Australia which had existed up to March 21 continue thereafter?

Without saying that time must be necessary to establish habitual residence in his Lordship's judgment, it took no time to terminate it. The mother ceased to be habitually resident in Western Australia from the moment she left bound for England with the intention of remaining here permanently, and for present purposes the child's intentions were the same as his mother's.

It followed that while the mother's conduct was in breach of the father's rights of custody under Western Australian law, the child was not habitually resident there immediately before the retention. Such retention was accordingly not wrongful within the meaning of article 3 of the Convention.

His Lordship was aware that the decision might cause anxiety that, where the couple were married, a parent could terminate the habitual residence of a child by removal from the country of habitual residence.

In the ordinary case of a married couple it would not be possible for one parent unilaterally to do so by removing the child from the jurisdiction without the agreement of the other parent's rights.

The present case was unusual and could not be applied to the ordinary case of a married couple. The mother here was unmarried and under Western Australian law the father had no right until he obtained a court order.

His Lordship expressed his regret at deciding the case as he had. He considered that the father had been hard done by on the part of the mother, but the court had to apply the Convention in accordance with its terms and as it was intended to be applied.

He would therefore dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Staughton and Sir Roger Ormrod agreed.

Solicitors: Reynolds Porter Chamberlain; Moon Beever for Alfred Newton & Co, Stockport.

Regina v Wirral Magistrates Court, Ex parte Melkies
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Potts
[Judgment May 17]

On the application, under section 8(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, for the lifting of reporting restrictions at criminal proceedings, all co-defendants had to be present and given an opportunity to make representations before the justices reached a decision.

In the absence of *mala fides* the doctrine of abuse of process of the court did not apply to ancillary matters such as bail.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application by Joyce Margaret Melkie for an order of *certiorari* to quash a decision by Wirral Justices to lift reporting restrictions in criminal proceedings in which she was a defendant.

The court dismissed a second application for judicial review of the justices' decision to refuse the applicant bail.

Mr Andrew Edis for the applicant; Mr Andrew G. Moran for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the applicant had been charged with murder on November 9 and remanded in custody. On November 17 she was charged with conspiracy to blackmail the murder victim.

On December 21 one of the co-accused successfully applied for the lifting of reporting restrictions. Only one other co-accused was represented in court at the time and the clerk advised the justices of the need to let all co-accused make representations before making an order under section 8 but the justices went ahead and made an order.

On January 19, 1990 the justices held a hearing under the Prosecution of Offences (Custody Time Limits) Regulations (SI 1987 No 299), as brought

into force on Merseyside by amendment by (SI 1989 No 767), expired in respect of the murder charge. The time limit for the blackmail charge had eight more days to run.

The prosecution then realized that the time limit on the murder charge had expired and arranged for the applicant to be brought to court where, on January 24, she was charged with theft and remanded in custody on that charge.

The prosecutor had not appreciated that the custody time limit on the conspiracy to blackmail charge had not run out and that he could, therefore, have applied to the justices for it to be extended.

On the advice of counsel the applicant was also charged with burglary and robbery on February 1 and remanded in custody on those charges.

The prosecution made it clear that the charges of theft, burglary and robbery were not procedural devices to avoid the regulations but had always been in mind. Until the charge of theft had been laid the prosecution had been waiting for counsel's opinion before acting.

On March 29 the custody time limit on the theft charge was extended and the applicant was from then on held in custody on that charge alone.

The orders made in respect of all the co-accused made a bewildering and almost incomprehensible array, leading the applicant to seek to quash the order lifting reporting restrictions and the decision to remand her in custody on the theft charge.

It was unquestionably right that on a proper construction of section 8(2) all defendants had to be present before the justices made the decision to lift reporting restrictions.

In the instant case the clerk had told that to the justices and they had given no explanation for ignoring his advice.

The lifting of reporting restrictions could be highly prejudicial to a defendant. The balancing of competing interests was a difficult exercise, but all the accused had to have an opportunity to make representations.

On the applicant's second complaint it was argued that the decision to charge her with an additional offence of theft arising out of the murder allegation had been a procedural device to avoid the consequences of the regulations and was an abuse of the process of the court.

It was also argued that the five charges laid against the applicant should be construed as one for the purposes of the regulations and the time limit expired on January 19.

Although there was no authority that justices were entitled to reject a new charge merely because it was a device to defeat their obligation under the regulations to release an accused on bail, it was argued that the theft charge was superfluous and should have been rejected by the justices.

His Lordship had no doubt that the five charges were not to be regarded as one.

The regulations referred to "offence" in the singular. It was ludicrous that Parliament intended the effect suggested by the applicant. The justices were under a strict duty to apply the Bail Act 1976.

The theft charge had been properly brought. The justices could not be attacked for their decision to remand the applicant in custody.

Mr Justices Potts agreed. Solicitors: Nicholas Jones, Wallasey; CPS, Merseyside.

Proper procedure necessary before disqualifying company director

In re Cadec Ltd
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Langridge
Before Mr Justice Mummery
[Judgment May 18]

Although the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 had been enacted to protect the public interest, it was reasonably clear that an application for a disqualification order under section 6 of that Act should not be entertained unless and until the statutory procedure under section 16(1) to give notice to an intended respondent had been observed in the precise terms of that subsection's natural and ordinary meaning.

That obligation to give notice was imposed for the protection of an individual against the possibility of unfounded and damaging allegations and should be observed even if, in the particular case, no harm had apparently occurred from non-compliance with that notice procedure.

Mr Justice Mummery so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division, when he made an order in favour of the respondent, Graham John Langridge, striking out an originating summons brought by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against him for an order under section 6 of the 1986 Act.

His Lordship, in his discretion, granted the application of the secretary of state for leave pursuant to section 7(2) of the 1986 Act to commence new proceedings seeking a disqualification order against the respondent.

Mr A. W. H. Charles and Mr David A. S. Richards for the Secretary of State; Mr James Munby, QC, for Mr Langridge.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that on April 22, 1987 Mr Peter Beine was appointed administrative receiver of Cadec Ltd under the terms of a bank debenture. The respon-

dent, Mr Langridge, was a director of Cadec.

On April 21, 1989 an originating summons was issued on the application of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for an order under section 6 of the 1986 Act for an order that the respondent shall not, without the leave of the court, be a director of, or in any way whether directly or indirectly be concerned or take part in the promotion, formation or management of a company for a period of not less than two years and not exceeding fifteen years from the date of the order.

The evidence was now complete and the application was ready for hearing.

This was not, however, the substantive hearing of the application for a disqualification order. The respondent had taken a preliminary point.

On March 22, 1990 a summons was taken out on behalf of the respondent for an order that the originating summons be struck out.

On the following day a summons was taken out on behalf of the secretary of state for an order that, in the event that the originating summons was struck out, leave be granted pursuant to section 7(2) of the 1986 Act to commence new proceedings against the respondent out of time.

Background 1 Section 7(2) provided: "Except with the leave of the court, an application for a disqualification order against any person shall not be made after the end of the period of two years beginning with the day on which the company of which that person is or has been a director became insolvent."

2 Cadec became insolvent on April 22, 1987 when the administrative receiver was appointed: section 6(2)(c).

3 On April 11, 1989 the respondent was served with a letter dated April 10, 1989 in which the secretary of state gave to the respondent notice of his intention to apply for the making of a disqualification order by the High Court.

That letter was delivered to the respondent's home in purported compliance with section 16(1) which read: "Any person intending to apply for the making of a disqualification order by the court having jurisdiction to wind up a company shall give not less than ten days' notice of his intention to the person against whom the order is sought; and on the hearing of the application the last mentioned person may appear and himself give evidence or call witnesses."

4 On April 21, 1989 the originating summons was issued, that is, just within the two-year limitation period specified in section 7(2). Before the issue of those proceedings the respondent had been given 10 calendar days' notice of the secretary of state's intention to apply for the making of the disqualification order; but he had not been given 10 clear days' notice of that intention.

That was the cause of the present problem, although its existence was not admitted by either party until after Mr Justice Harman had given judgment in *In re Jaymar Management Ltd* (unreported) on December 20, 1989.

He had then held that on the construction of section 16(1):

(a) The period of "not less than ten days" should be calculated exclusive of the day on which notice of intention was given and of the day on which the proceedings were issued.

(b) The words "apply for the making of a disqualification order" referred to the date on which the proceedings were issued, not to the date on which the

proceedings were heard.

(c) The giving of the notice was mandatory. If 10 clear days' notice had not elapsed between the date on which notice was given and the date on which proceedings for disqualification were issued, the court had jurisdiction to hear the premature proceedings. They must be struck out.

For the purposes of the present hearing only, the secretary of state accepted that the correctness of the decisions of Mr Justice Harman on points (a) and (b) he reserved his right to challenge those decisions on appeal but contested the correctness of (c).

5 Until they knew of the judgment in *Jaymar* both sides had proceeded on the assumption that the notice had been given in compliance with section 16(1) and that the proceedings commenced and continued.

Soon after the Treasury Solicitor informed the respondent's solicitors of the judgment in *Jaymar* the sums to be struck out were issued, followed on the next day by the summons for leave to start new proceedings out of time.

There were two questions for determination by the court: (1) Ought the court to strike out the originating summons issued on April 21, 1989 for non-compliance with the provisions of section 16(1)?

(2) If so ought the court to grant leave to the secretary of state to start new proceedings under section 7(2) to make an application for the disqualification order against the respondent under section 6?

Nature of jurisdiction The nature of the jurisdiction was relevant to both questions. The making of a disqualification order involved "a substantial interference with the freedom of the individual": see *In re Lo-*

Line Electric Motors Ltd [1988] Ch 477, 486B and section 13.

Not surprisingly, a disqualification order could only be made on proof of serious misconduct on the part of the respondent: see sections 2, 3, 4. It was not the case that this was a difficult area of the law. There was much force and sense in the arguments so well put on each side.

After hesitation, his Lordship had decided that he should make a striking-out order in the respondent's summons for the following reasons:

1 In accordance with modern practice as to judicial comity *In re Jaymar* should be followed: see *Colchester Estates (Cardiff) v Carlton Industries plc* [1986] Ch 80, 85F-C.

2 His Lordship formed the same view as Mr Justice Harman in *In re Jaymar* on the construction and effect of section 16(1) and accepted as correct the formulation of the essential question posed by the secretary of state: "What results did the respondent intend to flow from the failure to comply with section 16(1)?" That approach was entirely consistent with *Howard v Bodding* ((1877) 2 PD 203), a case relied upon by Mr Justice Harman in *In re Jaymar*.

3 The obligation to give notice under section 16(1) had to be observed by the person on whom Parliament had imposed it. The natural and ordinary meaning of the section was that an application could be made to the court for a disqualification order unless and until that obligation had been performed by the giving of notice in compliance with the terms of the subsection.

4 While it might not be possible to permit the respondent to start new proceedings for the court to speculate in a general way about the purposes of a statutory provision, it was permitted, indeed bound, to have regard to what was a reasonably clear

purpose of a statutory provision.

Prior notice of intended legal proceedings involving potentially serious and damaging allegations provided a valuable safeguard for an intended respondent to those proceedings.

5 As a general rule it was important that the statutory obligations imposed for the protection of an individual against the possibility of unfounded and damaging allegations should be observed even if in the particular case no harm had apparently occurred from non-compliance with that procedure.

Parliament must have regarded the notice procedure as an important part of the scheme for disqualification proceedings in the civil courts because the 1986 Act did not confer any discretionary power on the court under the circumstances to dispense with the performance of the obligation. Compare the power to extend the limitation period in section 7(2).

Further, there was no provision in the Act to the effect that the proceedings should not be nullified by failure to comply with the statutory procedure.

Those factors all pointed to the conclusion that Parliament intended the institution of disqualification proceedings to be preceded in all relevant cases by the giving of a notice and intended that the application for a disqualification order should not be made unless and until such a notice had been given and that an application made without prior statutory notice in conformity with section 16(1) should not be entertained by the court even if one or both parties were willing to waive that requirement.

His Lordship did not regard that result as diminishing the degree of public protection which the 1986 Act was enacted to provide. In those cases where

there was no limitation period, that is, all except section 6 cases, there was no problem.

If there was no jurisdiction to hear proceedings begun without prior compliance with section 16(1) new proceedings could be started. Costs could be saved by using the evidence filed in the old proceedings.

In proceedings under section 6 the same cure was available if non-compliance was discovered within the limitation period and in sufficient time to start fresh proceedings.

If non-compliance was not discovered until after the expiration of the limitation period the court had a wide discretion under section 7(2) to grant leave to start new proceedings out of time.

Leave to renew His Lordship then turned to the application by the secretary of state for leave to start new proceedings out of time and said that the 1986 Act did not specify those matters which the court must or might take into consideration in deciding whether leave should be granted.

The matter of leave was left at large for the unfettered discretion of the court. His Lordship preferred not to give guidelines for the future exercise of a discretion which Parliament intended to be taken into account in the identification of either mandatory or discretionary considerations.

It was sufficient to state that like any discretion entrusted to a court, it must be exercised judicially taking into account all relevant circumstances and counsel's attempts to satisfy the court that this was a proper case for the exercise of discretion to extend the time for making the application.

His Lordship was satisfied by the evidence and argument that this was a proper case for the grant of leave.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Dean Wilson, Brighton.

Human Rights Law Report

Refusal to authorize reception of Soviet satellite television is a breach

Autronic AG v Switzerland
Case No 15/1989/175231

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. Cremona, Thor Vilthjalmsson, Bindschedler, Robert, L. Golcuklu, F. Matscher, L. E. Pettit, B. Wald, Sir Vincent Evans, R. MacDonald, C. Russo, R. Bernhardt, A. Spielmann, J. de Meyer, J. A. Carrillo Salcedo, S. K. Martens, E. Palm and I. Föhl.

Registrar M. A. Eissen
[Judgment May 22]

The Swiss authorities' refusal to authorize a company specializing in home electronics to receive by means of a dish aerial uncodified television programmes from a Soviet telecommunications satellite—a refusal based on the lack of the broadcasting state's consent—had infringed the company's freedom to receive information and ideas regardless of frontiers, as guaranteed by article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 10 of the Convention provides: "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of

national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

Autronic AG was a Swiss company which specialized in home electronics, in particular dish aerials. In 1982 it requested the Post and Telecommunications Authority to allow it to show a public Soviet television programme at an exhibition in Zurich, a programme which it received directly from a Soviet telecommunications satellite, G-Horizont, by means of a private dish aerial.

The authority replied that it could not give its authorization without the express agreement of the Soviet authorities.

In January 1983 the authority rejected an application by Autronic seeking a declaratory ruling to the effect that the right to receive for private use uncodified broadcasts from telecommunications satellites in question could not depend on the consent of the broadcasting state.

The authority held that such reception could not be authorized without that consent, having regard to various provisions of the International Telecommunication Convention and the radio regulations, in particular in relation to the security of telecommunications.

In July 1986 the Swiss Federal Court refused to rule on a public-law appeal lodged by Autronic on the ground that the

company had no direct economic interest.

At the time the only satellite television programmes which were capable of being received in Switzerland by means of a dish aerial were those from G-Horizont.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the European Commission of Human Rights drew up a report on March 8, 1989 in which it established the facts and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of article 10 (eleven votes to two, with one abstention).

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held: **Applicability of article 10**

In the Court's view, neither its legal status as a limited company nor the fact that its activities were commercial nor the intrinsic nature of freedom of expression could deprive Autronic of the protection of article 10.

The article applied to everyone, whether natural or legal persons, and concerned not only the content of information but also the means of transmission or reception since any restriction imposed on the means interfered with the right to receive and impart information.

The reception of television programmes by means of a dish or other aerial came within the right laid down in the first two sentences of article 10 paragraph 1, without its being necessary to ascertain the reason and purpose for which the right was to be exercised.

As the administrative and judicial decisions complained of had prevented Autronic from lawfully receiving G-Horizont's transmissions, they amounted

to interference by public authority with the exercise of freedom of expression.

Article 10 was therefore applicable.

B Compliance with article 10 1 Paragraph 1 The Court considered it unnecessary to rule on the applicability of the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 10 in the instant case. At all events, that sentence did not provide that licensing measures should not otherwise be subject to the requirements of paragraph 2, for that would lead to a result contrary to the object and purpose of article 10 taken as a whole; as the Court had pointed out in its *Groppera Radio AG and Others* judgment of March 28, 1990 (*The Times* April 16, 1990; Series A No 173, p.24, paragraph 61).

2 Paragraph 2 It had to be determined whether the interference complained of was prescribed by law, was in pursuance of one of the legitimate aims listed in paragraph 2 and was necessary in a democratic society in order to achieve them.

(A) Prescribed by law The Court took the view that the legal basis for the interference was to be found in the Federal Act of 1922 regulating telegraph and telephonic communications and Ordinance No 1 of 1973 relating thereto, in conjunction with provisions in international telecommunications law.

Given the public for which the measures were intended, those instruments were sufficiently accessible.

It could have been asked whether the said enactments did not lack the required clarity and

precision, but it did not appear necessary to decide that question. As the Court had come to the conclusion that the interference had not been justified.

● TENNIS 43
● CRICKET: 42
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SPORT

Wright's case for promotion

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAGLIARI

Cagliari..... 0
England XI..... 6

MARK Wright, the last player to be included in England's official World Cup squad, could be the first to force his way into an otherwise settled side. The impact he made during an abbreviated and belated appearance here yesterday suggests that he will be a genuine contender for a central defensive role.

His inclusion was in doubt until the moment the list had to be submitted to FIFA, and he was introduced against Cagliari for only the last 21 minutes, in place of Walker. If he is to be promoted, though, he will come in for Butcher, who has recently been worryingly unreliable on the ground.

England, toiling in the Sardinian heat, were only 2-0 ahead before Wright amply illustrated the value of a defender who has the ability, and the belief, to be able to play his way out of trouble and launch an attack. "He has given me food for thought", Bobby Robson conceded.

None of his regular back four is naturally comfortable on the ball. Each has a quality to offer to the unit - Stevens is athletic, Walker is quick, Butcher is tall and Pearce is powerful - but collectively their distribution tends to be inaccurate and predictable.

England's manager has stressed the importance of "playing from the back" and keeping possession will be especially crucial during the forthcoming weeks. Although Cagliari were tiring, Wright showed that he can be the elegant and precise individual whom Bobby Robson requires to reinforce his defence.

Wright was less blameless than most during the European Championship fiasco two summers ago, but injury disrupted his international career. A severely bruised thigh threatened to end his ambitions of being included in the party here, and his recuperation seems to have been completed even quicker



Two against one: Platt and McMahon put their numerical advantage to good use as England cruise to an easy victory in Cagliari yesterday

than he expected. He was fortunate to be ushered on when Cagliari's commitment was fading. During the first half, McMahon, in particular, was the victim of several jarring challenges and Bobby Robson had to remind his reserves to resist the temptation to retaliate. He was justifiably encouraged by the disciplined response.

"The opposition was vigorous and we could have indulged in a stroll in the sun," he said. McMahon, Webb and Bull all received wounds which should heal within a day or two. The damage England inflicted on the side already promoted to the Italian first division was eventually more extensive. Free kicks, a potentially

decisive factor in the World Cup finals, were the source of both goals before the interval. Webb, who still lacks the necessary sharpness, chipped the first for Bull to score with a characteristically forceful header. Dorigo, amid a flawless display, drove home the second.

Beardsley, honoured with the captaincy, nominated himself as the penalty-taker to add the third, after Bull had been brought down midway through the second half.

Beardsley and Bull fashioned the fourth for Platt, and Wright, carrying the ball purposefully from the back, was involved in the fifth, also claimed by Platt, and the sixth, by Bull. The Wolver-

hampton Wanderers' forward finished his productive afternoon with a spectacular overhead kick which struck the foot of both posts.

It is dangerous to over-estimate the significance of such occasions. The previous night, for instance, Brazil suffered the apparent indignity of being beaten 1-0 by Umbria, an Italian third division side.

Claudio Ranieri, the manager who has lifted Cagliari from the third to the first division in successive seasons, put the affair, which was held behind only half-closed doors, into realistic perspective. After picking out Stevens and McMahon as the individuals who could feature successfully

in Italian football, he said that England had not surprised him. "Although key players were missing, there was plenty of commitment and that is the strength of your football."

It is as well to remember that on the eve of the European Championship, England appeared to be equally promising during a 4-1 victory over another local side, Heilbronn.

CAGLIARI: M. Toppo (sub: G. Nanni); G. Festa (sub: M. Giovannini); M. Poli (sub: A. Greco); C. Corbelli; M. Valentini; A. Fracasso; M. Capicci; L. de Pasio; F. Provola (sub: R. Paoletti); L. Benadini; P. Rocca. ENGLAND XI: C. Woods (Rangers); G. Stevens (Rangers); P. Butler (QPR); D. Walker (Nottingham Forest); M. Wright (Derby County); A. Dorigo (Chelsea); T. Stevens (Rangers); N. Webb (Manchester United); S. McMahon (Liverpool); P. Beardsley (Liverpool); D. Platt (Aston Villa); S. Bull (Wolverhampton Wanderers); P. Farnetti.

Alcohol warning on video

By JOHN GOODBODY

JOHN Barnes and Terry Butcher, two members of the England World Cup football squad, appear in a health education video which was launched yesterday by Alcohol Concern to encourage young people to adopt disciplined and sensible drinking habits.

The video features players, supporters and administrators from all levels of the game, advocating a healthy and responsible approach to alcohol. It is being distributed through youth organisations, health promotion units and football club community programmes. Butcher, the Rangers defender, says in the video: "I think anybody coming up, any youngsters coming through, cannot see excessive drinking as a part of their fitness campaign. So it is very important, and the more people that get involved the better."

● BBC Television's coverage of the FA Cup final replay between Manchester United and Crystal Palace attracted 13.9 million viewers, the highest audience for any televised football match this season.

Top seeds bow out on novel day of surprise

From ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
PARIS

HISTORY was made at the French Open yesterday, though not in the way Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker would have liked. For the first time, the top two seeds were beaten in the opening round of a grand slam event, Edberg falling to the young and slender Spaniard, Sergi Bruguera, in three sets and Becker following shortly after, beaten for the second time in the month by the Yugoslav, Goran Ivanisevic.

Though both were classed as major upsets, the defeats were not entirely illogical. Neither Becker nor Edberg has been as convincing on clay this year as they were last when they were semi-finalist and a finalist respectively at Roland Garros, while both Bruguera and Ivanisevic are talented clay court players who only needed to add a touch of consistency to their games to break into the top 20 in the world.

Becker has never lost in the first round of a grand slam tournament, but has always been vulnerable in the first few days of a tournament. "It's impossible to play my best in the early rounds," Becker said. "For him, every round is a final. But all the top players want to get better and better through the tournament. It's why there are upsets."

Becker was surprised as much by the stamina of the lanky Yugoslav, who had

played four matches last week to help his country win the World Team Cup, as by the power of his serve. Though he took the first set 6-4, the Wimbledon champion dropped his serve early in the second set. That revived Becker's fears and gave the Yugoslav new heart. Ivanisevic kept his advantage, levelled the match at 1-1 with an ace, one of 19 he served in the match, and took the third set 7-5 with passes on the forehand and backhand, which were straight from Becker's own locker.

From there, the writing was very much on the wall for the West German and he seemed to feel it as much as anyone. Two more breaks in the first and fifth game of the final set assured the 5-7, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 victory in just over three hours. "He was playing out of his mind. I hoped he might get tired, but he just seemed to get better and better," Becker said. "But don't write me off yet. I'm only 22."

Amid the mayhem, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario began the defence of her title with a sedate 6-1, 6-3 win over Noelle Van Lottum. But with Becker, Edberg, Emilio Sanchez and Jay Berger all out in the first round, the men's singles is more wide open than ever. Wisely, Ladbrokes are refusing to give odds until the semi-finalists are known.

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West Indies may host A team tour

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE England cricket committee's plans to develop a depth of international experience have taken another admirable step forward this week with a proposal for an A team tour to the West Indies next winter.

The success of the trip to Zimbabwe in the spring has encouraged the Test and County Cricket Board to pursue the idea of regular second team tours and negotiations have already begun with the West Indies Board.

To cut costs, vital in such a project, England are prepared to undertake the tour before Christmas, when the Caribbean holiday trade has not reached its peak. The itinerary would probably extend over five or six weeks and include certain islands which do not usually stage international cricket.

This will be welcome news for players such as John Morris, Neil Fairbrother and Mark Benson, all overlooked last winter but very much part of England's thoughts in the long term.

The selectors meet on Friday of this week to choose a 12-man party for the first Cornhill Test which starts at Trent Bridge next Thursday and already they are confronted by problems.

Angus Fraser, Gladstone

Hampshire progress

HAMPSHIRE moved to within four points of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, joint leaders of the county championship, by beating Yorkshire by five wickets at Headingley yesterday (Geoffrey Wheeler writes). Hampshire's third win in five matches came with seven balls to spare with the Smith brothers, Chris and Robin, both scoring half-centuries.

Yorkshire have now lost all four of their championship matches this season, a sequence almost matched by Gloucestershire, under their new coach, Eddie Barlow, whose defeat by 10 runs by Middlesex at Lord's was their third in the same number of games. They remain bottom of the table.

Worcestershire, the champions, were thwarted by the weather at Edgbaston, having reached 106 for one in search of 244 to beat Warwickshire, with Curtis and Neale going well.

Waddock dropped at the eleventh hour

From CLIVE WHITE,
RABAT, MALTA

A CAREER that has had its share of ups and downs was in cool descent yesterday when Gary Waddock was dropped from the Republic of Ireland's official World Cup squad, having been included in the provisional one which left Dublin four days ago. The uncapped Alan McLoughlin, of Swindon Town, takes his place.

It is rare indeed for a player to be left out of the World Cup reckoning at this late stage for

any reason other than injury. But Waddock is in perfect health. The fact that two of the Millwall player's midfield colleagues are struggling to recover from serious injury makes Jack Charlton's decision to omit Waddock sound illogical.

Faced with the possibility of losing Houghton or Whelan, perhaps even both, it has dawned on Charlton that he cannot entrust such crucial responsibility to Waddock.

"I've called in Alan because I need somebody to support

the front players. If I'm losing Whelan and Houghton I need somebody to get forward. McLoughlin is a very good runner and can get goals. We haven't got a player like him," Charlton said.

Clearly the decision was as hard for Charlton to relay as it was for Waddock to receive. One would have thought, though, that he could have found a more private place than the arrival hall at Malta airport on Monday to have passed on the bad tidings.

But Charlton, having taken

the decision prior to the exhausting 11-hour journey from Turkey, clearly could not live with the thought a minute longer. Outwardly forthright and hard, Charlton, inwardly, is made of much softer stuff.

Waddock has declined Charlton's offer to stay on and is returning home on the first available flight today. One is reluctant to write off his international career when he has already proved wrong those medical specialists who said that he would never play again.

But this must signify the end for the 28-year-old who resurrected his career in Belgium and was brought back to the first division this season by Millwall.

McLoughlin arrived here last night fresh, or more probably weary, from his triumph in the play-offs at Wembley on Monday, when he could lay claim to Swindon's crucial goal. A career that started out none too successfully as a full back at Manchester United is now clearly in its ascent.

Swindon's status problem unresolved

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE question of whether Swindon Town will assume the first division place they earned by beating Sunderland in the second division play-off final on Monday remained unanswered yesterday.

The subject of a Football League inquiry into alleged irregular payments to players last August, Swindon could, if found guilty, be stripped of their newly-acquired status, or even demoted.

The situation is complicated by the fact that Brian Hillier, formerly the chairman of Swindon, Lou Macari, Osvaldo Ardiles's predecessor as manager, and Vincent Farrer, the former club accountant, are all on con-

ditional bail after being charged with intending to defraud the Inland Revenue by making payments to Swindon Town employees without deducting tax and national insurance, between 1985 and 1989. They are due to appear before Swindon magistrates on Tuesday, June 12, but it is expected that the case will take several months to come to Crown Court.

The League is confident that any verdict it reaches following an investigation into an alleged breach of its own regulations would not prejudice the legal proceedings. Nevertheless, Ian Cotton, the League's press officer, said: "We are still taking advice from our lawyers on the subject."

If the League's lawyers decided that a hearing would be prejudicial, it is conceivable that Swindon could spend next season in the first division, but be automatically relegated at the end of it, regardless of where they finish.

With next season's fixture list in the process of compilation and due for publication in mid-July, it is understood that the League hopes to announce a new inquiry date within the next fortnight. In the meantime, the League's fixture computer is classifying Swindon as a first division team, and the club has raised season ticket prices.

Gary Herbert, the present Swindon chairman, said: "We have received no comeback

from the League as yet about a date for our hearing. Until that happens we cannot plan for the future."

That is a problem shared by Sunderland, the beaten play-off finalists, and Sheffield Wednesday, who were relegated after finishing eighth in the first division. Should Swindon be denied promotion, as is widely anticipated, either club could fill the resultant vacancy. Meanwhile, the League says it will wait "at least a few weeks" before deciding whether to hold the play-offs at Wembley next year. "There will be a detailed analysis as to how the three days have gone," a spokesman said. In total, more than 130,000 spectators watched the three games.



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Simon Barnes

were merely passing through Italy, or trying to. Every spring, birds pass over Sicily and through the Straits of Messina on their way to Europe. Every year, thousands upon thousands are shot. For no reason other than sport.

Quite apart from anything else, the mass shooting is illegal. The above-named birds are all protected by European and Italian laws. But the enforcers of the law do nothing to stop it.

There are valiant people from the Italian League for the Conservation of Birds (LIPU) who attempt to monitor the killing. This year, five members of that organisation have been assaulted and threatened with shooting. One car owned by a LIPU

member has been burned; a van has been damaged.

In previous years, there have been many other similar crimes against LIPU members. Once, the LIPU office at Messina was bombed. The law is simply disregarded: both by hunters and by the authorities. Evviva lo sport!

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the British conservation organisation, gives financial support to LIPU. Alistair Gammell, the RSPB head of international affairs, said: "This illegal slaughter takes place every year with the full knowledge of the Italian authorities."

"Conservationists who try to monitor the illegal killing are physically threatened and are given no protection from actual harm to themselves or their property. It is deplorable that the Italian government makes no move to halt what amounts to terrorism. The Italian police must work with, and protect, conservationists who are fighting to end these illegal practices."

The arguments for conservation should need no rehearsing here. One can argue equally forcefully with an anthropocentric point of view as with a wider one. The issues involved are, of course, far greater than sentimentality. If conservation issues are not taken seriously, we might as well all give up.

Conservation is an international issue, not a parochial one. Poisonous emissions in Britain are believed to cause acid rain in Scandinavia. The effects of Chernobyl did not stop at the Soviet border. The Italian slaughter affects wildlife populations over the rest of the continent. Conservation is not an issue on which any nation can be seen to drag its feet: not any more.

Italy is holding a national referendum on hunting next Monday. If this is successful, it will cancel the existing hunting laws, forcing the Italian Government to come up with a new package to provide better protection for wildlife.

Clearly, the question of adequate enforcement is the crucial one. The Italian police force has become a centre of international attention as the final preparations for the World Cup begin. The police are refining their anti-hooligan tactics, principally for the arrival of the unspeakable English.

However, the Italian police have already failed, as they fail every year, to cope with this annual tradition of hooliganism: the custom-sanctioned devastation of Europe's birds of prey.

As Italy celebrates the World Cup, those with an interest in conservation - a number which, logically at any rate, should include the entire human race - believe, before the football starts, that Italy's sporting reputation is an international disgrace. This will remain the case until Italy does something to stop its annual celebration of destruction.